FBIS DAILY REPORT

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ARAB LEAGUE COUNCIL TO MEET IN CAIRO 12 SEP

NC251307Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 Aug 78 NC

[Excerpts] Cairo, 25 Aug--The 70th session of the Arab League Council will be held on 12 September at the Arab League headquarters in Cairo. This was stated by Arab League Assistant Secretary General Dr Sayyid Nawfal.

Dr Nawfal said that Arab League Secretary General Mahmud Riyad today cabled the Arab foreign ministers informing them of this decision in view of the lack of a quorum in favor of transferring the venue of the meeting to another country instead of holding it at the permanent headquarters of the Arab League.

Asked about the level of the meeting, Dr Nawfal said that the Arab League Secretariat General has sent the invitation to the foreign ministers and has received no regrets yet. Moreover, it has received notification that the delegations of the Sultanate of Oman and the YAR will be headed by the foreign ministers of these countries.

YASIR 'ARAFAT TRAVELS TO PDRY, YAR ON MEDIATION MISSION

Arrives in Aden

JN261815Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1800 GMT 26 Aug 78 JN

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, has arrived in Aden on an official visit to the PDRY. Brother Abu 'Ammar will meet with the PDRY leaders.

The radio correspondent has learned that this visit is part of the patriotic role played by Brother Abu 'Ammar to settle the differences between the two Yemens. Brother Abu 'Ammar will also pay a visit to San'a', where he will meet with leaders of North Yemen for the same purpose.

Visits San'a', Makes Statement

JN271319Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 27 Aug 78 JN

[Text] PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and his accompanying delegation left San'a' at 1100 this morning following a short visit to the YAR. Brother Yasir 'Arafat was seen off at the airport by Lt Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces; Al-Qadi 'Abd al-Karim al-'Arashi, vice president and chairman of the People's Constituent Council; Eng Muhammad al-Junayd, deputy prime minister and minister of finance; ministers, senior officials, and high-ranking officers of the army and security forces.

The two sides held talks at 2300 last night. The YAR side was headed by President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih; brother Yasir 'Arafat headed the Palestinian side. The talks dealt with the circumstances the Palestinian revolution is passing through, the most important issues in the Arab arena, the necessity to close Arab ranks and restore Arab solidarity to face all hostile plans against the Arab nation.

The 6-hour talks were attended on the Yemeni side by the vice president and chairman of the People's Constituent Council and the minister of foreign affairs; on the Palestinian side by Khalid al-Hasan, director of the PLO Political Department. [as heard]

In a statement before his departure, Yasir 'Arafat spoke about the results of his talks with President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and about the firm and principled stand of the YAR toward the Palestine question. He said: I held talks with my brother, Lt Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the YAR and commander in chief of the armed forces. These talks, which concerned domestic matters and issues of interest to our Arab nation, were successful and fruitful. Brother Yasir 'Arafat added: I can say that the talks with Lt Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih will benefit the Arab nation, the Yemeni people and the Palestinian people.

In his statement to SABA' news agency, brother Yasir 'Arafat asserted that relations between the Palestinian people and the Arab people of the YAR are close and permanent. The relations are rooted deep in the history of our Arab nation. He said that the Palestinian revolution has the full support of the YAR. The best and most recent proof of this support, he added, is the Yemeni strugglers who were martyred in Tel Aviv in the operation of martyr Dalal. This was one of the peaks of the Palestinian struggle and forced the Israeli enemy to declare a state of full alert in that area, something that had not occurred in the last 30 years of the occupation.

Concluding his statement, brother Yasir 'Arafat expressed his pleasure at visiting the YAR and asserted that he felt as if he were among his people and brethren. 'Arafat emphasized that his visit has a special significance for the relations between the YAR and the Palestinian revolution and for the benefit of our Arab and Islamic nations.

Returns to Aden

JN271626Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1600 GMT 27 Aug 78 JN

[Excerpt] Brother Abu 'Ammar, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, arrived in Aden from San'a' at 1200 today. Brother Abu 'Ammar was received at the airport in the capital, Aden, by brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, chairman of the Presidential Council; Foreign Affairs Minister brother Muhammad Salih Muti'; Defense Minister brother 'Ali 'Antar; Finance Minister brother Fadl Muhsin 'Abdallah; Communications and Transportation Minister brother Mahmud 'Abdallah 'Ushaysh; Fish Resources Minister Muhammad Salim Akush; Foreign Ministry Under Secretary 'Abdu 'Ali 'Abd ar-Rahman; several Yemeni officials; representatives of national liberation movments in Aden; members of the foreign and Arab diplomatic corps; the Palestinian community; and the PLO assistant representative in Aden.

Meets With PDRY Leaders

LD271825Y Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 27 Aug 78 LD/EA

[Excerpts] Brothers 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il, secretary general of the Unified Political Organization-the National Front Central Committee, and 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, member of the Executive Committee and chairman of the Presidential Council and Council of Ministers, this afternoon met Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, with whom they discussed the latest developments in the Middle East and relations between Democratic Yemen and the PLO. The results of Yasir 'Arafat's visits to states of the region were also reviewed.

The meeting was attended by brothers Muhammad Salih Muti', member of the Executive Committee, member of the Presidential Council and foreign minister; 'Ali Ahmad Nasir Antar, member of the Central Committee, member of the Presidential Council and minister of defense; and the PLO representative in Aden.

Yasir 'Arafat told the radio reporter that he was pleased to be in Democratic Yemen, inasmuch as the present situation, in which the Arab nation is confronting a vicious imperialist-Zionist attack, is extremely critical. He said he had discussed with officials in Democratic Yemen a number of situations, including that between the two parts of Yemen. He praised the positive attitude of readiness and understanding he had found on the part of PDRY officials and their concern for the interests of our Arab nation.

Referring to the various forms of relations between Democratic Yemen and the Palestinian revolution, he said: These relations are firm and deep in more than one area.

He stated that the situation in the Arab region is complex and that the situation in Lebanon is being exacerbated, particularly by the imperialist-Zionist attack on Lebanese patriotic forces and the Arab peace-keeping forces.

He affirmed that the Palestinian revolution is strong and on its way to victory, despite the conspiracies being hatched against it. He pointed out the need to encourage the momentum of the front of steadfastness and confrontation toward a more prominent position in the face of the comprehensive imperialist attack in the region. He said a meeting of the foreign ministers of the states of steadfastness and confrontation will be held soon and that this meeting will later develop into a summit.

Arrives in Kuwait

JN280907Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0900 GMT 28 Aug 78 JN

[Text] Kuwait, 28 Aug--Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman, arrived in Kuwait this morning for talks with Kuwaiti officials on the current Arab situation, developments in the Palestinian arena and the current situation in Lebanon. 'Arafat was received at the airport by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad as-Sabah and a number of Kuwaiti officials.

'ARAFAT PRESIDES AT PALESTINIAN-LEBANESE JOINT COMMAND MEETING

JN261710Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1615 GMT 26 Aug 78 JN

[Text] The joint command of the Palestinian revolution, the Lebanese Nationalist Movement and the patriotic front met last night under brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian armed forces. The joint command discussed the situation in Lebanon in light of the current isolationist provocations and Israeli movements aimed at bringing the situation to a head before the imminent summit in Camp David.

The joint command discussed the situation in southern Lebanon and decided to form a committee to investigate the attack on the Norwegian units 2 days ago.

PLO OFFICIALS SPEAK AT FATAH CAMP IN LEBANON

JN261905Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1625 GMT 26 Aug 78 JN

[Text] Brethren, the Fatah movement's organization at Shatila camp held a banquet yesterday. It was attended by general commander Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], brother Abu al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], brother Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf], a large crowd of the camp notables and members of the organization and the movement's responsible cadres.

The brother general commander delivered a speech in which he said:

Brethren, in 1973 in Berlin, before 141 delegations, the Vietnamese comrades gave me the flag of world revolution. In 1974 I spoke at the United Nations on behalf of this revolution and its strugglers inside and outside the occupied homeland. I recall here, brethren, that the chief of investigation admitted in the Knesset that he had interrogated 220,000 of our Palestinian people in the occupied territories. These are our people and their honor. That is why I talk to you and about you with great pride and with unlimited confidence in the inevitability of victory.

A few days ago I visited the families of the two martyrs 'Izz ad-Din al-Qalaq and 'Adnan Hammad. Their fathers said to me: Here are the rest of our sons. Take them for the revolution to continue the march of their brothers. This means that our people cannot be defeated or intimidated by death. The rulers of Baghdad and the others have to understand this and know that our people will not accept being anything but Palestinian.

Brethren, they are now trying to strike against the independent Palestinian decision so that a hand other than a Palestinian one may rule. The Amman regime and the isolationist regime in Baghdad say that the PLO does not represent the Palestinian people. I tell them that we are giants and have learned our lesson. We are now the vanguards of Arab liberation and world struggle against imperialism and Zionism. There is no struggle in the world that is not affected by the Palestinian issue. Hence the importance that any decision be a Palestinian one, stemming only from the will and aspirations of our Palestinian people.

Many attempts have been made to contain, subjugate and [word indistinct] the Palestinian decision and will. These attempts--since September [1970] up to the recent assassinations--have been continuous, but they failed and will inevitably fail. We should not forget, brethren, that the recent assassinations come in this framework and translate into action the American-Israeli decision approved by the Knesset. It stipulates the elimination of the Palestinian people and revolution as well as the leadership of the PLO, its envoys and cadres. Therefore, the assassination of any of our strugglers is aimed basically at containing this revolution and abolishing its independent will and its decisions. Let the perpetrators of all these crimes know that this revolution is strong and gigantic. It is the revolution of the Arab nation and the tool for change and nobody will annihilate it.

Brethren, we say welcome to our brothers in all factions; we hail unity and prompt military unity. The only condition we stipulate is that no foreign intruder be among us inside our Palestinian arena. This is our only condition. The secret of our victory throughout these difficult years is that our revolution is neither subservient nor a satellite and that it stems solely from the will of our people and Arab nation. Therefore, we are intent on Arab unity, but we shall not allow this unity to be (?drawn up) from outside. We want unity to be a Palestinian decision for the Palestinian people.

Brethren, during this stage we have achieved the creative and great example of Lebanese-Palestinian cohesion. This revolutionary cohesion has borne fruit in the form of greater steadfastness in the face of the big Zionist-imperialist plot. Together we have confronted attempts to give birth to a new Israel in the region. We have also displayed tremendous ability and steadfastness in continuing our civilized struggle against our enemies. This Lebanese-Palestinian cohesion is one of the greatest accomplishments. We shall continue consecrating and strengthening this cohesion among all Lebanese national forces. We shall also continue promoting and strengthening Palestinian-nationalist Lebanese-Syrian cohesion in the face of the big imperialist plot aimed against us all.

After brother leader Abu 'Ammar's speech, brother Abu al-Lutf spoke, affirming that the biggest achievement of the Palestinian people was their transformation from dispersed refugees to revolutionaries. The sons of the entire Palestinian people everywhere come together as strugglers with the revolutionary rifle and with the objective of liberation.

Brother Abu al-Lutf pointed out that there are elements trying to separate the revolution from its historic slogan, which says: All rifles should be aimed at the Zionist enemy. However, the heroic evolutionaries who have made the revolution and its great military and political achievements will safeguard this slogan and the sound course of struggle of the Palestinian rifle. Our faithful martyrs believed in this historic slogan and took it to their conscience as a trust. At this point, I recall hero martyr 'Izz ad-Din al-Qalaq, who shouted at the top of his voice: Our enemies are the Zionists, while the bullets of treachery--Arab treachery, unfortunately--were lurking for him behind the door.

I also recall Sa'id Hamami, who convinced the British people of the justice of his cause. He fell a martyr on the road of the struggle for this cause. I also recall 'Adnan Hammad and other brother martyrs who raised their, and your, voice high throughout the entire world.

Brother Abu al-Lutf said: We do not speak with the logic of vengeance and revenge. We speak with the logic of the struggle against the Zionist enemy. Our sons--who made the epic of Savoy and the epic of (?Dalal) and the epic of confronting the Zionist enemy in his fiercest battle against us in southern Lebanon, and who bravely fought the enemy for 8 long days--these heroes are capable of doing more. However, they aim their guns at the Zionist enemy and refuse to aim them at Arab chests.

Brother Abu Iyad then spoke, saying: The Fatah movement, which has been subjected to continuous propaganda and provocative attacks since its creation, has not replied to the accusations. The question now is: Why this campaign against the rulers of Baghdad? Since 1965, we have been hearing all sorts of accusations but we have not replied to them because strugglers need no testimony from anyone, particularly the Baghdad rulers.

We used to hear the accusations through the radio and magazines. However, this time it is not a matter of four or five strugglers assassinated by the Baghdad regime. The matter is much more than that. The Syrian-Palestinian war was foiled and the Lebanese-Palestinian war was also foiled. Now they are trying their hands at a Palestinian-Palestinian war.

We affirm that we will not allow such a war to occur. We will not remain silent about any Arab ruler who dares to lay a hand on the youngest struggler in this revolution.

Brother Abu Iyad added: They accuse us of capitulation while they are 2,000 kms from the battlefield. They unleash their radio stations and trumpets to attack us. We say: Let all these trumpets be silenced. We will establish our national independent rule on any single inch of our liberated soil. Every single inch of Palestinian land is dear to us. However, the question is how we can reach this land. This is what is important.

Brothe Abu Iyad continued: We will not bring inter-Palestinian fighting to a head. However, we have a right to be angry when agents hiding behind big slogans level accusations at us. When these agents use bullets against us, we will not remain patient.

Yes, we are in need of a democratic dialog. We also need to make firm decisions. The slogan of democratic dialog was not imposed on us. We chose it and our blood flowed for it and for the protection of others. We reject instigation, the casting of doubt and false accusations. However, we have stretched out our hand to all, within the framework of the PLO, not outside this framework.

Brothers, the road is still difficult. We pledge to you that we will hand over a clean and unblemished banner to the coming generations, to our cubs.

PLO SPOKESMAN ATTACKS CAMP DAVID SUMMIT

JN2610019 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0840 GMT 26 Aug 78 JN

[Text] Damascus, 26 Aug--PLO Executive Committee spokesman 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar has stressed the importance of strengthening the joint struggle with the forces of the steadfastness and confrontation front, particularly Syria, the base and main battlefield of this front.

In a statement to TISHRIN published here today, Abu Mayzar calls on the nationalist forces to double their vigilance against all internal and external attempts to undermine the Palestinian revolution. He condemns all attempts to divert the national Palestinian struggle from achieving the liberation of and return to the homeland.

Abu Mayzar calls for serious action to consolidate national Palestinian unity on a sound democratic basis within the framework of the PLO and its departments.

He says Lebanon is likely to become a hotbed of tension after the Camp David meeting. The Camp David meeting, he says, is a continuation of the U.S. policy aimed at weakening the Palestinian-Syrian stand confronting the U.S.-Israeli settlement. He stresses that the Camp David summit is a new link in the chain of U.S. policy in the Arab area aimed at controlling the Arab area and subjugating those Arab countries which are not in the U.S. orbit. This policy attempts to circumvent the great political successes of the Palestinian people's cause, particularly at the latest nonalined foreign ministers conference.

KUWAIT AL-QABAS: PALESTINIANS GET ADVANCED SOVIET WEAPONS

NC2711002 Doha QNA in Arabic 0955 GMT 27 Aug 78 NC

[Text] Kuwait, 27 Aug--Quoting its correspondent in Beirut, the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-QABAS reports today that the Palestinian resistance has received sophisticated Soviet weapons, including antitank and antiaircraft weapons. The paper says the resistance will receive more shipments of Soviet weapons in the next 2 weeks. The paper says that Palestinian contacts are taking place at the military level with Syria and the Soviet Union to supply the resistance with modern Soviet tanks and armored vehicles.

The paper quotes a Palestinian source as saying that he doubts these contacts will produce tangible results or that the resistance will be supplied with these vehicles, because of certain Syrian considerations. Syria is of the opinion that there is no urgent need to supply the resistance with heavy sophisticated weapons and consequently increase the size of the Palestinian armed presence in Lebanon, especially since this increase is not necessary while the Syrians are in Lebanon.

YEMEN--PDRY

ENVOYS LEAVE FOR SOMALIA WITH MESSAGES

JN251914Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1900 GMT 25 Aug 78 JN

[Text] Aden, 25 August--Two PDRY envoys today left for Mogadiscio to deliver two messages from PDRY Presidential Council Chairman 'Ali Nasir Muhammad and PDRY Foreign Minister Muhammad Salih Muti' respectively to Somali President Mohamed Siad Barre and Foreign Minister Jama Barre Abdurahman. It is said the two messages deal with the situation in the area.

YEMEN--YAR

COMMENTARY LAUDS 'ARAFAT VISIT, RELATIONS WITH PLO

JN271847Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 27 Aug 78 JN

[Text] Without doubt YAR policy on Arab causes in general and the Palestinian cause in particular is sincere and objective and effectively supports the Palestinian revolution and its just struggle. This was stated by Yasir 'Arafat, leader of the Palestinian revolution and commander of the Palestinian strugglers, during his short visit to the YAR and after his important and prolonged talks with our leader, 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces.

It is really a matter of great pride that Yasir 'Arafat expressed his conviction that his talks with the president are beneficial to Yemen, to all the Arabs and to the Palestinian cause. This shows that the responsible talks between the YAR and Palestinian sides have been of great importance. The meeting of the Palestinian and Yemeni revolutions is in the interest of the two revolutions and the Arab nation and emphasizes the urgent concern of the Arabs regarding many important problems besetting the region, the Arabs and the Palestinian revolution. Therefore, the Arab citizen in Yemen and in Palestine await the results of these talks with great optimism that they will bring good to all. The Yemeni revolution believes in the principle of self-determination for all peoples of the world, and the Palestinian revolution is struggling for this self-determination. Therefore the two revolutions meet on the same grounds and have common viewpoints on many issues. The Yemeni revolution and the Palestinian revolution work for Arab solidarity and unity of ranks. These two revolutions thus meet with the same principles and have common understanding on various issues.

We are optimistic that the talks between the two leaders, 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and Yasir 'Arafat, have been very fruitful and that their results will appear soon to the benefit of the Yemeni people, the Palestinian people and the Arab nation.

We welcome the leader of the Palestinian revolution on the soil of the Yemeni revolution. We welcome him as a guest of the leader of the Yemeni revolution and the Yemeni people. Farewell to 'Arafat until the coming meeting on the road to the victory of the Palestinian revolution, the Palestinian people and the Arab nation.

DR BUTRUS GHALI COMMENTS ON CAMP DAVID CONFERENCE

NC2708O1Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 27 Aug 78 NC

[Text] Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali has stressed that the results of the Camp David conference--whatever they may be--will be important, positive and favorable to the Arabs. He said that the results of the conference will give new momentum on the road to the permanent and just peace to which we aspire and which we are calling for. The conference will be an opportunity at the highest level to mobilize international and U.S. public opinion in support of Arab rights and to show the true and positive elements of these rights. The conference will also be an opportunity to show and expose Israel's intransigence before international and U.S. public opinion, particularly before Jewish public opinion in the United States.

Dr Ghali said that President as-Sadat's visit to Europe on his way to Camp David will help achieve these objectives. The visit will also underline the importance of Europe's role in finding a peaceful solution to the problem.

Dr Ghali described the call for convening the Camp David conference as the climax of U.S. diplomatic activity in this direction. U.S. President Jimmy Carter will personally participate in the Camp David talks. For the first time he will participate in the talks as a full and actual partner, not just as a mediator. Dr Ghali explained that the Camp David conference will have no fixed duration because President Carter wants to dedicate all he can in terms of time and effort to reach a permanent and just peace in the Middle East. This is because President Carter feels that the issue is too important for U.S. foreign policy and for U.S. interests in the area. These interests definitely are no longer the same as Israel's interests.

Dr Ghali said that for 30 years Israel has deluded the world and U.S. public opinion into believing that it is the best tool for defending their interests in the area. All this is over now and everyone can now see that there is a difference between U.S. and European interests and Israel's interests.

CABINET DISCUSSES CAMP DAVID SUMMIT

NC2807J0Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 28 Aug 78 NC

[Excerpt] The cabinet met last night under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Mamduh Salim. Information and Culture Minister 'Abd al-Mun'im as-Sawi has stated that Prime Minister Mamduh Salim opened the meeting with an explanation of the current important stage--the stage of establishing just peace and of holding the historic tripartite summit conference which U.S. President Jimmy Carter will convene at Camp David in the first week of September.

As-Sawi added: Mamduh Salim stated that the Egyptian and Arab people view this stage with alertness and hope. They back President as-Sadat and support his constructive efforts for the establishment of a just peace, liberation of the Arab land and for solving the Palestinian question. His excellency affirmed that the cabinet believes that at this historic conference, the president will express the hopes of the people in Egypt and the Arab world and that this conference marks the beginning of a new stage in the national struggle to confront the Israeli attempts to waste time and impose Israeli sovereignty, which President as-Sadat and the Egyptian people have rejected. The prime minister emphasized that the Egyptian people extend all their support to the president and look with hope for the achievement of a just peace on the basis that peace in the Middle East will necessarily influence peace in the world.

The information minister further said: Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil submitted a report to the cabinet on the Camp David summit meeting, explaining how the idea of holding this meeting began after it transpired at the Leeds Castle conference that Israel had submitted negative replies and that there was a difference between the Egyptian and Israeli views on solutions to the Middle East and Palestinian problems. In his report, the foreign minister then points out that President as-Sadat received a letter from President Carter explaining the positive stand the United States intends to adopt at the Camp David tripartite summit. The foreign minister reaffirms the policy Egypt will follow at this summit and its keen interest in safeguarding Arab interests and reaching a comprehensive and just solution to the Palestinian question and the Middle East problem. He also emphasizes that there will be no separate or partial solutions.

SOURCE VIEWS IMPORTANCE OF CAMP DAVID TALKS

NC280652Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2325 GMT 27 Aug 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 27 Aug--The Monday edition of the newspaper AL-AHRAM quotes a responsible Egyptian source as saying that Egypt considers the tripartite conference which will open at Camp David on 6 September as a dividing line in the efforts for a political settlement of the Middle East crisis. The source said: Egypt views the Camp David meeting as a step that is as important as the peace journey to Jerusalem as far as the results of the meeting are concerned.

In his statement to AL-AHRAM, the source added: Cairo sees no alternative to the conference for achieving a comprehensive settlement to the Middle East crisis, particularly after President as-Sadat has affirmed more than once that Egypt is not aiming at concluding a partial settlement with Israel or a third disengagement on the canal front.

The source added: The basic efforts of the Egyptian stand at Camp David will be concentrated on the problem of the West Bank and Gaza, since the Palestine question is considered the core of the Middle East crisis. If a solution is reached to this problem there will be no big problems as far as Sinai is concerned. The Egyptian source said: What will be agreed on in relation to Sinai will also apply to the Golan.

MENA REPORTS EILTS DEPARTURE FOR WASHINGTON

NC270844Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0815 GMT 27 Aug 78 NC

[Excerpt] Cairo, 27 Aug--Mr Hermann Eilts, the U.S. ambassador to Egypt, left Cairo today for Washington to participate in the preparations for the Camp David summit conference, which is to be attended by President Anwar as-Sadat, U.S. President Jimmy Carter and Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin.

PRESS COMMENTS ON SUMMIT, BEGIN STATEMENTS

NC280820Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 28 Aug 78 NC

[Press review]

[Excerpt] In its editorial, entitled "A Positive U.S. Stand," AL-JUMHURIYAH today refers to the various statements issued in Washington on the Camp David conference, saying that they give a clear impression, perhaps for the first time in the history of U.S. policy, that the United States is prepared to adopt a firmer stand on Israel's prevarications on the question of peace.

The paper adds: The clearest impression is, perhaps, the statement by the U.S. secretary of defense pointing out that it is natural that there should be a connection between Camp David and Israel's acquisition of weapons, and that the results of the Camp David summit will determine the final U.S. decision on supplying arms to Israel.

AL-JUMHURIYAH says that this is the first time since the special relationship between the two states was established that U.S. policy has linked Israel's position on peace with its acquisition of arms. The paper adds: It is now possible that Israel will find somebody in Washington who will tell it: No. AL-JUMHURIYAH further says: If the U.S. administration were to apply this, even once, Israel would definitely return immediately to its normal size and realize the importance of peace, first to itself and second, to the Arabs.

AL-AHRAM comments on the statement Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin made at the press conference he held after his cabinet meeting yesterday, in which he said he will go to the Camp David summit to debate the previous Israeli plan advocating autonomy for the Palestinian people in the West Bank and Gaza. The paper says: It appears that Menahem Begin's only aim is to maintain the land and deprive the Palestinian people of the right to determine their fate.

AL-AHRAM goes on: At the historic meeting in Jerusalem and later at the Ismailia summit, Egypt's President Anwar as-Sadat rejected the restoration of Sinai before the rights of the Palestinian people are established and before the Golan is liberated. Egypt will adhere to the position which the president declared in Tala city when he emphasized that Egypt will not accept partial solutions or a withdrawal from Sinai in return for abandoning the rights of the Palestinians.

AL-AHRAM draws attention to the fact that the United States has stressed more than once the necessity for withdrawal from the four fronts and the need to solve all aspects of the Palestinian problem and recognize the political rights of the Palestinians. It then says: U.S. President Carter has called for the Camp David summit conference, despite his awareness of the basic differences between the Egyptian and Israeli stands. All observers interpret this as meaning that the United States will play a role in the Camp David conference, particularly because President Carter appreciates the possible grave consequences of the failure of this meeting.

AS-SADAT RECEIVES MESSAGES FROM SAUDI, JORDANIAN KINGS

NC2715262 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1457 GMT 27 Aug 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 27 Aug--President Anwar as-Sadat has received messages from Saudi King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and Jordanian King Husayn. Vice President Husni Mubarak received the two messages today during his meeting with Saudi Ambassador to Egypt Shaykh 'Abd ar-Rahman Abu al-Khayl and with the Jordanian charge d'affaires in Cairo.

PRESIDENT MEETS WITH NDP INFORMATION COMMITTEE

NC2621247 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 26 Aug 78 NC

[Text] President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat met in Ismailia tonight with the members of the Information Committee of the National Democratic Party [NDP] Constituent Committee. The meeting was attended by Husni Mubarak, vice president and NDP deputy leader. The meeting was also attended by the committee rapporteur, Mansur Hasan.

KING HUSAYN SENDS MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT AS-SADAT

JN2612337 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 26 Aug 78 JN

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn today sent a message to Egyptian President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat in reply to the message his majesty had received. The Egyptian president's message outlined the Egyptian views on the tripartite summit in Camp David.

In his message, His Majesty King Husayn reaffirmed Jordan's position on the political efforts to date for a peaceful settlement of the Middle East issue. He outlined Jordan's views on the current Arab issues and the situation in the area.

PRESS CONDEMNS IDEA OF LEBANESE RIGHTIST STATE

JN2608477 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0615 GMT 26 Aug 78 JN

[Press review]

[Excerpts] The Jordanian papers today concentrate on news agency reports on the preparations of certain rightist militias to declare a "Republic of Free Lebanon" which will be linked to Israel with a joint defense treaty and established prior to the convening of the Camp David summit.

AR-RA'Y calls on the other factions in Lebanon, and primarily President Sarkis, to move as quickly as possible to foil this conspiratorial course, which Israel is backing and supporting with funds, men and arms. The paper says: "Lebanon is unified, free, and part of the homeland. Lebanon is for all, Christians and Moslems. Lebanon is too lofty to be a sectarian entity separated from its heritage and history."

AL-AKHBAR calls for decisive action in Lebanon. It says: "Decisive action in Lebanon is a pan-Arab necessity. Syria alone is currently undertaking this mission, but it is the pan-Arab duty of all Arabs not to abandon Lebanon as it faces internal and external plots against its Arabism."

Under the headline "To Avoid a New Catastrophe," AD-DUSTUR says: "Those who planned to divide Lebanon, its people, and entity and to establish a new Israel in Lebanon are nearing their goal. The task of this new entity is to divide the eastern Arab front and lay siege to Syria." Needless to say, the paper goes on, the reason for establishing this lackey state of the militias has nothing to do with harboring or protecting the Christians in Lebanon. Since its independence, Lebanon has harbored Christians and Moslems alike. Religious affiliations have never been a cause of crisis in Lebanon, even at the peak of the tragedy the Lebanese encountered.

There is no doubt that by preventing the UNIFIL forces from deploying in southern Lebanon and the Lebanese Army from advancing to take positions there, Israel is carrying out a premeditated plan to help create an agent state in Lebanon. The paper links this scheme being prepared in Lebanon with the Camp David conference. The paper points out that the aim of establishing a new state in Lebanon is to torpedo the Camp David conference or to divert its march. In conclusion the paper asks: Will the Arabs stand idly by, as if the matter does not concern them, when they are faced with the birth of a new Israel in Lebanon? The paper says: Perhaps the Arabs will wake up before this new catastrophe occurs and hasten to urge the United States, the Soviet Union, France, and all countries of the world to foil this Israeli plot before it is carried out.

UN AMBASSADOR TUWAYNI ON DANGERS OF CAMP DAVID SUMMIT

NC271742Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1615 GMT 27 Aug 78 NC

[Text] Permanent Lebanese UN Ambassador Ghassan Tuwayni has made a press statement in which he drew attention to the dangers that might face Lebanon because of the Camp David summit conference.

Tuwayni outlined the possible danger as follows: Israel might try to set a trap for Syria and launch a small war in southern Lebanon similar to that which took place before Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin visited Washington last March. The Palestinians might express their wrath over the results of the Camp David conference by resorting to creating disturbances in Lebanon. Syria might try to prove that it holds the keys to war and peace in the Middle East. Finally, the conservative Lebanese Christians might try to attract international attention to their fate.

Ambassador Tuwayni said that the Lebanese problem will be discussed at the Camp David summit conference because there will be no peace in the Middle East unless there is peace in Lebanon. He added that the numerous problems will not be solved, particularly the Palestinian issue, unless the Lebanese problem is solved.

Tuwayni noted that security and peace will not prevail in Lebanon unless agreement and understanding are achieved among the Arab states. He said that Lebanon has paid a higher price for the Middle East crisis than that paid by Egypt and Syria. Lebanon comes second to the Palestinians in this respect, he said. It has lost territory and lives and sustained economic losses. Therefore, the time has come for the Lebanese to say no to destruction and massacres and to refuse to let Lebanon be an arena for a battle which does not stem from their own will and national interests.

VOL ON SYRIAN, U.S. ROLES VIS-A-VIS LEBANESE CHRISTIANS

NC261726Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1615 GMT 26 Aug 78 NC

[Excerpts] A diplomatic report prepared by a Western embassy in Beirut reveals some aspects of the Syrian and U.S. roles in settling the Palestine problem at the expense of Lebanon. According to the report, only the Christians of Lebanon are strongly resisting the plot to settle 200,000 Palestinians in Lebanon while the other sects and all the Arab states, including the confrontation and steadfastness states, are adopting an attitude of implicit acceptance of this solution.

The United States gave the Palestinians the green light in 1975 to impose the U.S. settlement plan by force when it realized that the Christians were against this settlement. When the Palestinians failed, the report says, Washington assigned the task to Syria under the pretext of consolidating legitimacy by means of the Arab Deterrent Forces.

The report stresses that the next phase is supposed to see the conclusion of two operations. The first is to strike at the Christian force and cut it down to size, thus rendering it incapable of resisting, and the other is to continue to hammer the rejectionists in the Palestinian camps in Beirut and Sidon in order to enable Fatah to openly accept the solution which will come out of Camp David and which, as a matter of fact, is now a pending agreement whose implementation requires certain operations in Lebanon.

This is why the Lebanese people's fears are justified: a confrontation is bound to come, and very violently.

The report concludes: If this is not the case, how else could what is now happening in Lebanon be explained? This is why Syrians are shelling the Christian areas in an unprecedented manner, and why the Palestinian liquidation of the rejectionist group is taking place at the same time as the attempt to liquidate the Christians.

BUTRUS DISCUSSES 28 AUGUST TALKS IN SYRIA WITH SARKIS

NC271719Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 27 Aug 78 NC

[Text] Foreign and Defense Minister Fu'ad Butrus will go to Latakia tomorrow to meet with President Hafiz al-Asad and senior Syrian officials.

The Lebanese-Syrian talks will be a continuation of the summit talks which were held between Presidents Sarkis and Al-Asad and then between President al-Asad and Prime Minister al-Huss. During the talks, new developments in the Lebanese arena will also be discussed.

At noon today President Sarkis and Minister Butrus discussed Butrus' talks in Latakia tomorrow.

Leaves for Latakia

JN280946Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0930 GMT 28 Aug 78 JN

[Excerpt] Beirut, 28 August--Lebanese Foreign and Defense Minister Fu'ad Butrus left for Latakia this morning on a visit to Syria during which he will hold talks with head of the Syrian regime, Hafiz al-Asad, and his foreign minister, 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam.

It was stated here today that the talks will deal with the question of extending the mandate of the Arab Deterrent Forces and with the security situation.

INTERIOR MINISTER WARNS ON SECURITY SITUATION

NC251935Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 25 Aug 78 NC

[Text] Interior Minister Dr Salah Salman held intensive contacts with the security commanders this morning, acquainting himself with security reports arriving from various regions. Later, he made a statement in which he said: The latest security reports indicate an escalation of local incidents disturbing security in many regions, particularly in the north and Jabal Lubnan. These incidents could have serious consequences.

Today, I held the necessary contacts with the Arab Deterrent Forces Command, the Internal Security Forces General Directorate and the Public Security General Directorate to adopt appropriate strict measures to stop this serious trend, which cannot be a mere coincidence or a result of personal emotions. Innocent people are the only victims of this trend, which is frustrating all the security efforts on the various official and unofficial levels. Therefore, I appeal to those who are loyal and eagerly committed to the public interest to rest assured that security is indivisible on the homeland's territory, that the citizen is the main guardian of the security and that the sole duty of the security men is to support and help the citizen to keep this awareness alive, effective and aimed in the proper direction.

PHALANGIST COMMITTEE DISCUSSES CURRENT SITUATION

NC2513l4Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1115 GMT 25 Aug 78 NC

[Text] The Phalangist Emergency Committee held its regular meeting today under the chairmanship of Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil, party secretary general Lawyer Joseph Sa'adah, the party deputies, the heads of the district councils, and the party officials responsible for Beirut and the districts attended the meeting. The discussion dealt with the security situation in Beirut and the various parts of the country in light of the recent developments. These developments indicate that some parties intend to fabricate incidents to disturb security and create a tense atmosphere all over the country.

The Emergency Committee heard some security reports received from the north and Al-Biqa' indicating the existence of suspicious movements in those two areas.

After discussing the executive measures approved by the Party Political Bureau regarding the political and security situations, the committee decided to delay the implementation of some measures until the results of the Camp David summit conference and the developments in southern Lebanon and in the area are known.

DETERRENT FORCES COMMAND REPORTS ON 24 AUGUST INCIDENTS

NC251250Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 Aug 78 NC

[25 August statement by "a responsible source at the Arab Deterrent Forces Command"--read by announcer]

[Text] At 0500 on 24 August 1978, two automobiles carrying 12 persons were ambushed at the intersection of Kaftun-al-Majdal roads in the Al-Kurah-Al-Batrun district. Eight of the passengers of the automobiles were killed and two were wounded. As a result of this, a reinforced patrol of the Arab Deterrent Forces and the Internal Security Forces moved to the scene of the incident and combed the area in search of the culprits who managed to escape before the military force arrived at the scene of the crime.

All the injured were removed and orders were given to initiate an extensive search for the culprits in cooperation with the local forces. The Arab Deterrent Forces and the Internal Security Forces are patroling the entire area in order to maintain security and search for the culprits.

At 1430 on the same date, a local dispute broke out in Falugha township. The dispute developed among family groups in the area. Sticks and sharp tools were used. Three persons from both groups were wounded. The Arab Deterrent Forces intervened immediately and brought the situation under control after detaining 17 persons and confiscating eight of the firearms which were used in the clash. An investigation into what caused the incident has begun.

VOICE OF LEBANON REPORTS INCIDENTS THROUGHOUT COUNTRY

NC251225Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1115 GMT 25 Aug 78 NC

[Text] After the Wadi Biqsmayya massacre in the north yesterday, reports were received from Al-Biqa' this morning indicating that elements of the Syrian forces operating within the Arab Deterrent Forces were surrounding 'Aynata and Dayr al-Ahmar. The Syrian elements have begun entering houses and restricting personal freedoms without a known reason.

Armed barricades were set up on the Ba'labakk road. Reports indicated that a meeting was held in the past 24 hours in the Al-'Aba' Al-Bid school in Riyaq, the headquarters of the Syrian Command in Al-Biqa'. The meeting was attended by the commander of the Syrian forces there, Col Mahmud Jamil, and representatives of the Palestinian resistance and leftist groupings. Nothing is known about the nature of the discussions.

We have received reports that Palestinian and leftist elements have begun returning to Tarshish and have taken up positions in the quarries area and the hills overlooking 'Aynturah and Al-Mutayn villages. The joint forces have also taken up positions on the road running between 'Uyun as-Siman and (Shantad).

In Sa'd Nayil, elements manning an armed barricade have kidnaped four youths. They include Tony al-Haj, Michel abu Ghanim, and Joseph Khatir.

Arrivals from Al-Biqa' area today have reported that new fortifications have begun appearing along the eastern slope of the western mountain range. The Syrian forces have established fixed bases in the villages of Al-Maysah and Talya and on the hills overlooking the villages of R'it and Dayr Al-Ghazal. Stationed in these bases are Soviet-made SAM-6 missile batteries.

In 'Ayn Burday, a Chevrolet car exploded, injuring its owner, Sergeant Tony Habib Ar'ah. He was taken to Ba'labakk hospital in serious condition.

In the north, the situation is still tense following yesterday's incident in which four students were killed and two others were injured. This incident caused a wave of condemnation among official, political and popular circles.

In Beirut, according to security reports, incidents took place last night in the western sector. The incidents included kidnaping, explosions and break-ins. The perpetrators' aim was to cause anxiety among the citizens and to eliminate certain people.

An explosive charge went off last night in a shop located near one of the intersections near the house of former Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam. The explosion caused material damage to the shop.

Other reports received today state that limited clashes have taken place between the Fatah and the democratic popular front organizations. The clashes caused some casualties.

In the south, the UNIFIL Command held a meeting this morning to discuss the question of armed Palestinian infiltration into UNIFIL areas. It seems that the Palestinian provocations are not only confined to border infiltration but include the harassment of peaceful villages. It was learned today that the village of (Baqusta) in the Sidon district was attacked by Palestinian armed elements. The aim of the attack was to drive the Lebanese out of the village and settle alien elements there. However, the residents resisted the attackers and forced them to leave the village.

REPORTAGE ON SYRIAN ATTACKS IN N. LEBANON

Al-Batrun, Jubayl Districts Attacked

NC251650Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1615 GMT 25 Aug 78 NC

[Text] We received reports from the north a short while ago indicating that the Syrian forces have tried to forge through the axis separating Al-Batrun and Jubayl districts. This axis consists of four villages. They are Dayr Billa, Dirya, Bayt Shilala and 'Ayn Kfa'. When the inhabitants confronted the attacking forces, a clash took place in which a number of people were killed or wounded on both sides.

We have also heard that the shelling this afternoon concentrated on the village of Tannurin. Other Syrian forces moved from Al-Yammunah in Al-Biqa' in the direction of Al-'Aqurah, which made the situation very tense. Officials are urgently trying to prevent the escalation of the situation.

A tense atmosphere also prevails in Zahlah after Syrian forces set up roadblocks on the various approaches to the city and the hills overlooking it. The Syrian forces have conducted searches for persons identified on lists they have in their possession.

The Unified Lebanese Forces Command immediately met under the chairmanship of former President Camille Sham'un to study the deteriorating situation in the north. A statement will be issued after the meeting and will be broadcast as soon as it is received.

We heard a short while ago that battles are currently taking place in 'Aynatah in Al-Biqa' between the Syrian forces and the inhabitants. Battles are also taking place in Al-Musayqa between Dayr Al-Ahmar and 'Aynatah. Some houses, with their inhabitants, were blown up belonging to the family of ar-Rahmah, and some arrests have been made.

Statement by Unified Forces Command

NC251917Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1855 GMT 25 Aug 78 NC

[Excerpts] The Command of the Lebanese Forces held an emergency meeting this evening under the chairmanship of former President Camille Sham'un and in the presence of all its members. After the meeting the 5th Branch of the Lebanese Forces Command issued the following statement:

At 1330 today, 25 August 1978, Syrian regular forces launched a surprise general attack on the Al-Batrun area. The Syrian forces advanced on two axes: The first [words indistinct] axis consisted of 'Ibrin, Bijdarfil, and Dirya; the second [words indistinct]. Airborne troops, reported to be special forces in battalion strength, were landed on the first axis, supported by vehicles and field artillery. The inhabitants confronted the attacking forces and halted their advance on the two axes.

Following this attack on peaceful areas, the Lebanese Forces Command was forced to adopt all defensive measures to insure defense of the innocent civilians. In view of the intensity of the Syrian fire, it is impossible to estimate the number of casualties. This attack comes in the wake of provocations carried out by Syrian regular forces in Dayr al-Ahmar and 'Aynata and their movements in the direction of Al-Yammunah-Al-'Aqurah.

The Syrian military operations were still going on as this statement was being prepared at 2115 today.

Deterrent Forces' Statement

NC252016Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 25 Aug 78 NC

[Text] The Command of the Arab Deterrent Forces issued the following statement this evening:

Today, 25 August 1978, an Arab Deterrent Forces patrol in Al-Batrun district was, in accordance with orders issued to it, pursuing the culprits involved in the armed ambush which occurred in the same area yesterday. When the patrol arrived at the crossroad between ('Abdilla) and Dirya in Al-Batrun district, it came under fire from armed men. One member of the patrol was martyred and another was wounded.

The patrol pursued the gunmen, who escaped into the neighboring woods; necessary reinforcements were sent for this patrol. At 1800 a search for the culprits began; this operation was still in progress as this statement was being prepared.

VOL: Syrians Resume Attack

NC260732Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 0715 GMT 26 Aug 78 NC

[Text] According to a report we received a short while ago from the north, the Syrian deterrent forces resumed their attack this morning on the town of Kur, using various weapons and vehicles. No new details have been received about the attack; however, battles are going on to stop the advance of these forces.

Reports received during the night indicated that the Syrian forces had retreated from the villages which they suddenly entered last night. The Lebanese Army encamped in the Jamboree village in Al-Batrun district covered the withdrawal following contacts which were held for this purpose.

In Al-Biqa', the Syrian forces set fire to a number of houses in 'Aynata and Dayr al-Ahmar. They also stormed a number of houses on the pretext that they were looking for arms.

Arab Forces Explain Operation

NC261207Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 26 Aug 78 NC

[Text] An official source with the Arab Deterrent Forces Command has made the following statement about the reports on the Arab Deterrent Forces attack on some villages in Al-Biqa' and their subsequent siege:

A unit of the Arab Deterrent Forces in northern Al-Biqa' was assigned the task of establishing several checkpoints along the Dayr al-Ahmar-'Aynata road in the direction of Al-Arz. The unit was assigned this task in the wake of reports on the transportation of heavy weapons and large quantities of ammunition in this area. The operation lasted from 0530 to 1230 on 25 August. As a result of this operation, a quantity of weapons and ammunition was confiscated. One person from 'Aynata town was detained. Three checkpoints have been temporarily retained near the towns of 'Aynata and Dayr al-Ahmar.

Beirut Radio Reports

NC261203Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 26 Aug 78 NC

[Text] The Arab Deterrent Forces Command issued the following statement today:

Following its statement issued on Friday evening on the military operation in Al-Batrun district, the Arab Deterrent Forces Command declares that its forces assigned to the task of combing the area of Bijdarfil, (Dawmah), 'Abdilli and Dirya, and the forests surrounding these villages, again came under the fire of armed elements this morning. These forces were compelled to pursue the armed elements in the forests. These forces were reinforced by new units to enable them to resolve the issue in the next few hours. As a result of this morning's operation, one armed man was killed and two others were wounded. The Arab Deterrent Forces faciliated the immediate evacuation of the casualties.

Voice of Lebanon Report

NC261222Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1115 GMT 26 Aug 78 NC

[Text] At 1400 today the Fifth Branch of the Lebanese Forces Command issued the following statement: The Syrian regular forces are continuing their attempt to occupy the central and rocky areas in the Al-Batrun district. The Syrian forces are concentrating their attack on the villages of Dayr Billa, Kur and Biqsmayya. They are using heavy artillery and helicopters for landing airborne troops.

The statement adds that four Syrian air force planes were seen flying over Kur. The Lebanese Forces Command has issued orders to its units to support the steadfast citizens who are defending their lives and lands. The command also asks the citizens not to heed rumors which are being circulated by suspicious sources.

Syrian Forces Enter Kur

NC261432Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1415 GMT 26 Aug 78 NC

[Text] The Voice of Lebanon received information this afternoon that the Syrian forces assigned to the Arab Deterrent forces have entered Kur town after shelling it with heavy artillery and destroying its houses.

It is reported that many have died or were wounded during the battle.

Battles Continue

NC261657Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1615 GMT 26 Aug 78 NC

[Excerpts] Battles are continuing in the north between the Syrian forces assigned to the Arab Deterrent Forces in Lebanon and the peaceful sons of the area. In the meantime, intensive efforts are being exerted to contain the incidents and to avert further complications.

According to a recent report from the north, battles are now raging along the outskirts of Kur town. Syrian helicopters are seen flying between the area and Al-Quly'at airport, which is under the control of the Syrian forces.

The Fifth Branch of the Lebanese Forces Command issued the following statement at 1830 today:

The Syrian regular forces have resumed their attack on the central and barren districts in Al-Batrun. After the flight of warplanes over Kur in the morning, the Syrian forces on the Kur front were reinforced by more than 1,000 men from special units. The men were transported by helicopter.

At 0917, the Syrian forces launched a violent mechanized attack on Kur. Heavy artillery and rocket shelling preceded this attack. Despite the valiant defense of the inhabitants and because of the strong pressure exerted on a peaceful town which was not equipped and prepared to be turned into a battlefield, at 1240 the Lebanese Forces Command requested the inhabitants to evacuate women, children and old people.

According to preliminary estimates, more than 65 civilians have been killed and 40 persons are missing. It is believed that the Syrian forces might have detained the missing persons.

The military situation on the other fronts is good and does not call for anxiety. The Lebanese forces are organizing the defense of the residential areas in Al-Batrun with the help and participation of the inhabitants.

Additional Arab Forces' Statement

NC261835Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 26 Aug 78 NC

[Text] Adding to its two previous statements on the security situation in Al-Batrun district, the Arab Deterrent Froces command has issued the following statement:

The search operation, which the Arab Deterrent Forces began yesterday afternoon for the armed men who ambushed one of its patrols along the road leading to Dirya village in Al-Batrun district, has continued. Armed men stationed at the outskirts of the village again opened fire on these forces when they arrived in Kur village. One soldier was killed and four others were wounded. This compelled the forces to cordon the village and carry out a search at 1100 today.

The forces are continuing their hunt for the armed men who fled in the direction of 'Ibrin, Bidjarfil and Dirya but they had not come across any armed men when this statement was prepared. There are no clashes at present.

The morning's operation resulted in the killing of one armed man and the wounding of four others; 15 armed men were arrested and a military vehicle was seized.

End of Fighting Reported

NC261826Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1815 GMT 26 Aug 78 NC

[Text] The fighting in Al-Batrun area has now stopped, although anxiety and caution still prevail. The battles in the Kur area have resulted in 65 dead; 40 others are missing and are believed to be held by the Syrian troops.

DAMASCUS TISHRIN RAPS U.S. PEACE SETTLEMENT POLICY

JN270846Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 27 Aug 78 JN

[Press review]

[Excerpts] Under the headline "Washington Is Not Seeking a Solution to the Crisis," TISHRIN carries the following comments: President Anwar as-Sadat has justified his rapid reversal of his decision to halt direct negotiations with Israel on the grounds that the United States will play the role of a full partner at the Camp David summit and present special formulations to surmount Begin's intrasigence. As-Sadat had previously described Begin as the sole stumbling block in achieving peace.

U.S. Vice President Walter Mondale torpedoed As-Sadat's sole justification when he announced that President Carter's role at the Camp David summit would be limited to urging the two leaders to achieve a peaceful settlement in the Middle East. Mondale added that President Carter reserved the right to present proposals and ideas on the ways and means to bridge the gap between the two Middle East leaders.

Bridging the gap in this case does not mean presenting a solution or the adoption of special specific ideas; it means mediating to find middle-of-the-road solutions between two positions. In any case, either approach--bridging the gap or mediation--contravenes the UN resolutions on the Middle East issue.

This U.S. position gives the impression that the U.S. stand at the Camp David summit will be more inclined toward Israel than toward As-Sadat. As long as the U.S. side has not yet committed itself even to the role of a full partner--the role declared by U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance--it is unlikely that the U.S. position at the talks will deviate from the well-known U.S. course of supporting Israel.

Zbigniew Brzezinski, President Carter's adviser, in defining the real U.S. position to an Arab personality, said: It is true that the Middle East question is high on the list of priorities, but this does not mean that it is high on the list of issues likely to be solved.

Even when the Americans refer to the UN resolutions, they refer only to Resolution 242 and completely ignore the resolution under which Israel was established in 1948 and which provided for the establishment of a Palestinian state alongside the Israeli state.

Those who look for peaceful relations before establishing peace and those who speak about UN resolution 242 and ignore the other basic UN resolutions are indeed against both the establishment of peace and a peaceful solution.

LEBANON'S GREEK ORTHODOX PATRIARCH LAUDS SYRIAN ROLE

JN260822Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 26 Aug 78 JN

[Excerpts] Beirut--Greek Orthodox Patriarch Ilyas IV has asserted that the task of the Arab Deterrent Forces in Lebanon is to firmly establish security, to enable the Moslems and Christians to regain their peace and strength, and to restore Lebanon's glory and independence.

In an interview with the Paris-based AN-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AD-DUWALI [date not given], his beatitude noted that the Arab Deterrent Forces consist of Moslem and Christian soldiers and officers. He added that Christians in Syria enjoy full rights and that Moslems and Christians are treated alike in jobs and in the economic, political and social domains.

His beatitude said that sedition is alien to Lebanon and to Lebanese citizens. He said that Israel has fostered the idea of sedition to exacerbate differences and transform them into a struggle between Moslems and Christians. This, the patriarch added, has not and will not take place.

Asked about rumors that Syria is seeking to annex Lebanon, his beatitude said Syrian officials' statements, particularly those of President Hafiz al-Asad, are clear in this regard. President al-Asad has repeatedly declared that the presence of the Syrian forces in Lebanon depends on the will of the legitimate Lebanese Government. This clearly indicates that Lebanon's independence depends on the Lebanese people and we cannot speculate about Lebanon's fate before Lebanon achieves its final and complete peace.

Asked whether he supports those who advocate removing the deterrent forces from Lebanon, his beatitude said: I would refer this question to the Lebanese people; it is their decision. There is no doubt Syrian officials will agree if Lebanon wants this. It is incumbent upon the Lebanese state to insure its authority before discussing the question of removing the Arab Deterrent Forces. If it does not do this, the country will return to civil war.

In conclusion, his beatitude said that Syria's weakness is a fatal weakness to Lebanon and Syria's strength is a great strength to Lebanon and those who want to dominate the area do not wish Syria to be strong.

GREEK ORTHODOX MEETING CONDEMNS PLOTS IN LEBANON

JN270709Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 27 Aug 78 JN

[Text] Damascus--The Greek Orthodox Patriarchate in Antioch and eastern North America has emphasized its support for Lebanon's integral unity. In a statement following its 33d annual meeting [date and venue not specified], the patriarchate denounced the provocative acts which are being carried out in Lebanon. It urged every Arab to preserve Lebanon's unity and called on all Arabs to work together to consolidate this unity.

The statement condemned the various fallacious information campaigns and the Zionist campaigns distorting the conflict in Lebanon. The statement added that Lebanon is being subjected to a foreign plot.

FOREIGN MINISTER KHADDAM TO VISIT MOSCOW 29 AUGUST

JN251946Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 25 Aug 78 JN

[Text] Damascus--At the invitation of the Soviet Government, 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, member of the Ba'th Party National and Regional Commands and deputy prime minister and foreign minister of the Syrian Arab Republic, will pay an official and friendly visit to the Soviet Union on 29 August.

ATH-THAWRAH COMMENTS ON EVENTS IN LEBANON, IRAN

JN260945Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 26 Aug 78 JN

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Required Reply to the Sham'un-Begin Plot," ATH-THAWRAH carries the following comment: The only alternative for the hirelings was to link themselves directly with Israel by erecting political bridges--to bolster the already established military bridges--and set up a "Republic of Free Lebanon." The expected move occurred last Tuesday when the agent Camille Sham'un met with the Tel Aviv rulers in occupied Jerusalem. The Jerusalem POST said this meeting constituted a new phase in Israeli intervention in Lebanon's domestic affairs on the pretext of protecting the Christians.

This act by the leader of the hireling Liberal Party at this particular time, when imperialist and Zionist circles are attempting to draw the attention of world public opinion to the Camp David summit and its results, was not done haphazardly but was part of a series of acts whose overall aim is to subjugate the Arab nation.

Since the imperialists, Zionists and reactionaries are trying to make Lebanon the first victim of the Camp David summit, it is incumbent upon the united national front to strengthen itself to confront the current challenges and to abort the plot aimed at partitioning Lebanon.

In an another commentary entitled "The Resignation of the Scapegoat," ATH-THAWRAH says: The United States, which has direct and close relations with Iran is taking this fact into consideration in view of recent events there. The United States is now proceeding from the principle that these events can no longer be controlled by oppression and terrorism, and that it is necessary to look for new effective ways to confront and thwart the Iranian people's uprising. Therefore, it is likely that Washington may seek to place the shah in a new political circle [as heard] and find another person who could pass as a patriot but in reality would be a mere tool to carry out orders. Most observers reject this possibility, but it is now close to reality. This is because the shah is trying to make his prime minister a scapegoat, at least in the eyes of the United States. This ploy by the shah is doomed to failure because Washington is well aware that its oil and security interests in Iran would be greatly endangered if the shah fails and the popular revolution continues.

ALGERIA

ASH-SHA'B ON MAURITANIAN OFFICIAL'S STATEMENT ON WAR

LD2616367 Algiers ALS in French 1200 GMT 26 Aug 78 LD

[Excerpts] Today's ASH-SHA'B comments on the appeal by Captain Muhammad Ould Ahmad Bah, member of the Mauritanian Military Committee for National Recovery, to African states to help his country out of a war which it can no longer afford and which has damaged his country's reputation abroad.

The paper says the appeal, which was launched yesterday from Libreville, where Captain Ould Bah delivered a message to the president of Gabon, is in line with Nouakchott's new policy. In the light of the Moroccan king's recent threats, the appeal must be regarded as a call to stand by Mauritania against Rabat's attempts to do everything to obstruct peace in that region. The paper adds that the Mauritanian appeal is directed at Morocco's partner in aggression, Spain, which is regarded by international bodies and world public opinion as responsible for liquidating imperialism in the Western Sahara, in accordance with UN resolutions and the recommendations of the OAU.

The paper says it is the duty of the Spanish Government to join the efforts being made to end the aggression against the people of Mauritania and to facilitate the work of international bodies. Such participation would entail an official, public renunciation of the treaty of Madrid, adherence to UN resolutions enabling the Saharan people to exercise self-determination, and an end to supplying the Moroccan army with various types of arms.

In conclusion, the paper said that Algeria had chosen to comply with international legality; it had stood by the Mauritanian people when they chose to pursue a policy of nationalization and to rid themselves of French domination. Now Algeria would not stint in helping to save them from Moroccan occupation.

ENVOY CONVEYS BOUMEDIENE MESSAGE TO IRAQI PRESIDENT

LD2412127 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 24 Aug 78 LD

[Text] Brother Mohamed Yazid, Algerian ambassador to Lebanon, returned to Beirut yesterday from Baghdad after having conveyed to Iraqi President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr a message from President Houari Boumediene. He made a statement on his return in which he pointed out that his mission was an opportunity to express the unanimous demand of the Arab masses to halt the regrettable events that have taken place recently. He expressed hope that an end would be put to such events.

Muhammad Yazid met today with Abu Iyad, member of the Fatah Central Committee, and Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department. Their meeting dealt with the situation in the Palestinian arena and the latest developments in the situation in the region.

LIBYA

CONGRESSMAN SIKES MEETS WITH FOREIGN SECRETARY

LD2513467 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 25 Aug 78 LD

[Text] Yesterday evening Dr 'Ali 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki, foreign secretary, received Mr Sikes, member of the U.S. House of Representatives, who is currently visiting the Jamahiriyah.

The meeting was attended by the U.S. charge d'affaires in the Jamahiriyah and the director of the American section at the Foreign Secretariat.

Sees People's Congress Official

LD251646Y Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1415 GMT 25 Aug 78 LD

[Text] Ahmad Ash-Shihati, head of the Foreign Liaison Office of the General Secretariat of the General People's Congress, has received Mr Robert Sikes, member of the U.S. House of Representatives. During the meeting, which was attended by the U.S. charge d'affaires to Libya relations between the peoples of the United States and the Jamahiriyah were discussed. The head of the Foreign Liaison Office explained the aims of Libya's foreign policy, namely to build good relations with all peoples and states on the basis of mutual respect. He also explained the mistakes in American official policy toward the Arab and Third World peoples, including Washington's stand against their wishes and its continued support for the reactionary regimes--a matter which stands as an obstruction in the path of the development of relations between the United States and a good many Arab and African states. These obstacles stand in the way of clarifying the atmosphere in order to achieve a better understanding between the United States and the Arab homeland.

Mr Sikes showed understanding of these observations and promised to convey them to official quarters in the United States and to make every effort to correct the mistakes in American policy and to clear up the atmosphere for a better understanding between the United States and the Arab homeland.

MAURITANIA

MINISTER SAYS ESTABLISHMENT OF PRIVATE PRESS AUTHORIZED

PA260257Y Paris AFP in French 1641 GMT 25 Aug 78 PA

[Text] Nouakchott, 25 Aug (AFP)--Mauritanian Minister of Culture and Information Mohamed Yehdi Ould Breidelleil has announced that the creation of private press organizations is authorized henceforth.

He said that the Mauritanian press should not make "propaganda against peace in the subregion or against the former regime and its party." This attitude would be contrary "to the desires of our government and our people, who aspire to a better and freer future," the minister said in an interview granted to the local newspaper CHAAB. "The press," the minister said, "has also proven, just like all the other sectors of our national life, that it can participate in democratic freedom."

Breidelleil also noted the difference between "the government press" and "the private press." The first, he said, is "free, but within the framework of the country's existing political situation." "In regard to this freedom, it must criticize in a constructive manner and write about everything which is of interest to the people."

The private press, "restricted in the past," the minister said, can publish its personal ideas "as long as they are not detrimental to the government. We shall henceforth allow the creation of private press concerns." Breidelleil also said that the Mauritanian press under the former regime "was a simple instrument of consumption, deprived of all efficiency and productivity."

The culture and information minister made this statement shortly after the announcement of the organization of the various sectors of the Mauritanian press, which was agreed upon during the last Council of Ministers session. This reform voids all mergers of companies carried out prior to the 10 July coup d'etat. It tends to "strengthen" to the maximum the existing information media. Four new press organizations have been created. The Mauritanian Society of Press and Printing, the Mauritanian Press Agency, Radio Mauritania and the National Cinema Office.

MOROCCO

MAURITANIAN AMBASSADOR PRAISES KING HASSAN'S SPEECH

LD2514447 Rabat MAP in French 1100 GMT 25 Aug 78 LD

[Text] Brussels--The ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania in Brussels, Mr Ahmedou Ould Abdallah, stated yesterday that the speech delivered by King Hassan II on 20 August contains several factors advantageous to the finding of a solution to the Saharan question. The Mauritanian diplomat recalled the sovereign's remarks to the effect that Morocco will support Mauritania if the latter chooses a path toward solving the question. He added that this greatly contributes to finding a solution to the problems of the region, and that it is of great importance, given the fact that Mauritania remains determined to find a solution to the problem in joint consultation with Morocco.

SUDAN

NUMAYRI CHAIRS 27 AUGUST CABINET MEETING

LD2720347 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 27 Aug 78 LD/EA

[Excerpts] The cabinet today held its regular meeting chaired by President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri. SUNA reports that the cabinet reviewed the memorandum presented by the interior minister on laws affecting immigration. The cabinet approved in principle the proposed amendments to the laws after thorough discussion, during which the president of the republic directed the political and executive organs to coordinate their efforts to reach a definite policy on the problem of immigration into Sudan. It was agreed that the Interior Ministry, the Ministry of Public Service and Administrative Reform and the Office of the Attorney General should take the measures to implement these laws.

The cabinet then approved in principle the loan agreement under which the African Development Bank will finance the foreign component of the agricultural mechanization project of the public corporation for animal production. The value of the loan is $5.6 million. The project envisages the establishment of a dairy farm in the northern part of Jazirah consisting of a milk production unit to meet the needs of the northern part of Jazirah and Khartoum Province in addition to the setting up of a factory for the production of fodder in Sawbah region with an annual production capacity of 12,500 tons.

In his capacity as supervisor of the public electricity and water authority, the president of the republic briefed the August cabinet meeting on the problems of water with which he acquainted himself during his recent meeting with workers of the authority. He also referred to the causes leading to the recent interruption of the electricity supply and the efforts made by the workers of the authority to repair the damage to one of the principal generators at Ad-Damazin.

WEEKLY CABINET SESSION DISCUSSES CAMP DAVID

NC271253Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 27 Aug 78 NC

[Text] In Jerusalem the cabinet meeting to sum up the preparatory discussions for the Camp David conference ended about 1 hour ago. Three decisions were adopted:

1. The delegation to Camp David will attempt to reach an agreement between the parties.

2. The delegation will submit to the summit conference the Israeli Government's peace plan aimed at signing an agreement between Israel and its neighbors.

3. The delegation will try to bring about a continuation of the negotiations among the parties.

The deputy prime minister, Yiga'el Yadin, will not go to Camp David. The Israeli delegation will number 11 members, including the prime minister, the foreign minister, the defense minister, the former government legal adviser, Aharon Baraq, and top-level officials.

The delegation spokesman will be the prime minister's adviser for media affairs, Dan Patir. Mr Patir told our correspondent that the hundreds of journalists who will be covering the conference will be given the basic facts. The aim will be to cut down on reports on details of the talks until the participants agree the details can be disclosed.

Begin Meets Press

NC271411Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1159 GMT 27 Aug 78 NC

[From the Midday Newsreel: press conference given by Prime Minister Begin to correspondent Shalom Qital and others following 27 July cabinet meeting--live]

[Text] [Qital] The prime minister, who has been waiting with the cabinet statement, is here with us. Mr Prime Minister, please.

[Answer] The cabinet has concluded and summed up its political discussion. It has adopted the following decision:

A. The Israeli delegation to the Camp David conference will work to achieve an agreement between the parties.

B. At the conference, the Israeli delegation will submit its plan aimed at signing a peace treaty between Israel and its neighbors.

C. The delegation will work for the continuation of the negotiations between the parties.

The Israeli delegation to Camp David will be composed of the following three cabinet members: The prime minister, the foreign minister and the defense minister. The other members of the delegation will be: Professor Baraq; the Israeli ambassador to the United States, Simha Dinitz; General Avranam Tamir; Dr Me'ir Rosenne; Brig Gen Efrayyim Poran; Yehivel Qadishay; Elyaqim Rubinstein; and Ilan Tehila.

The Israeli delegation will leave on Sunday, 3 September. On Tuesday it will go to Washington and from there to Camp David. The conference itself will start on Wednesday morning. As for the conclusion of the discussions, the date is not yet known. What is clear, is that the discussions will go on into the week following the week in which the discussions start.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr Prime Minister, you said that the government will submit its plan for the signing of a peace treaty. Is the plan which will be submitted by the government the same plan for administrative autonomy which was submitted to President as-Sadat in Ismailia?

[Answer] I can answer that positively.

[Qital] Mr Begin, what do you mean by saying that the delegation will work to achieve an agreement between the parties? What does an "agreement between the parties" mean?

[Answer] A substantial agreement.

[Qital] What is a substantial agreement?

[Answer] I think that you know Hebrew as well as I do. An agreement is an agreement and substantial is substantial.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr Begin, President as-Sadat last week rejected your proposal for a permanent partial settlement since--as I understand it--your proposal came in response to President as-Sadat's request for a goodwill gesture in Al-'Arish. Has the proposal been expanded since President as-Sadat's rejection?

[Answer] Your assumption is correct. We will examine the matter when we meet.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr Begin, has the government also adopted a decision on the alternatives [words indistinct]?

[Answer] We have a good peace plan. This is the answer. We have no alternatives to our plan. If there is a problem of formulations, we will be prepared to hear it and make a decision on it in accordance with the government's decision.

[Qital] Has the entire cabinet agreed on this decision?

[Answer] Yes.

[Qital] Unanimously?

[Answer] Unanimously.

[Unidentified correspondent] Have other decision been adopted?

[Answer] No. No other decisions have been adopted.

[Unidentified correspondent] Is there room for tactical flexibility on the part of the delegation?

[Answer] Kindly air your own interpretations on the IDF radio.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr Begin, did the government, in adopting its decisions, take into consideration the recommendations of the interministerial committee which you appointed?

[Answer] The panel's recommendations will be at the delegation's disposal just as they were at the cabinet's disposal.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr Begin, would you prefer that Professor Yadin be included in the delegation?

[Answer] I thank you for the question. I had been about to propose to the cabinet the inclusion of Deputy Prime Minister Professor Yadin in the delegation. We met yesterday, and Professor Yadin informed me that he would prefer not to be included in the delegation, but to act in my place. During the delegation's absence from the country, Professor Yadin will be the acting prime minister and the acting defense minister. Dr Burg will be the acting foreign minister.

[Qital] Is this an agreement based on coalition considerations? I think this is the first time Dr Burg has served as acting minister.

[Answer] This is an agreement based on commonsense. Just because this is being done for the first time, does not mean that it is a bad thing. I think this is a very good decision. It has also been unanimously adopted.

Further on Press Conference

NC271416Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 27 Aug 78 NC

[English portion of press conference given by Prime Minister Menahem Begin at his office following 27 August cabinet meeting--live]

[Text] [Begin's voice fading in] a territorial compromise, we shall consider it. This is what we said, and I stand by it.

[Question] Today it is a fact that Israel itself isn't proposing a plan built around territorial compromise. If that is the case, do you believe that peace in the Middle East is not built easier on territorial compromise?

[Answer] As-Sadat said so. Yes, President as-Sadat said he rejects any idea of a territorial compromise. It is a fact.

[Question] I am inquiring as to your opinion whether peace in the Middle East would be most easily built upon territorial compromise.

[Answer] No. I think that our plan is the best there is for negotiations and for the conclusion of peace treaties, and therefore we shall bring it to the conference.

[Question] Would you have preferred that Deputy Premier Yadin (?went with you)?

[Answer] I wanted to suggest that. But yesterday he told me that he will not participate in the delegation and he prefers to be the acting prime minister during our absence.

[Question] Mr Prime Minister, did your cabinet discuss what an acceptable role for the United States will be in the talks and would you define your thoughts on that?

[Answer] I already said that the United States fulfills a very important role of an honest broker, and should bring the parties for face-to-face negotiations.

[Question] Mr Prime Minister, should your plan not be acceptable to the Egyptian side, do you still plan to bring up the idea of a partial settlement between Israel and Egypt?

[Answer] The question of a partial settlement is connected only with the idea which was brought to me from Salzburg, and what we ask is to negotiate this proposal. As I already said last week--and I also declared so to the representative of the (?NEWSWEEK)--we stand by the idea of conclusion of peace treaties. And we shall see on the spot, if the idea comes up, we shall negotiate. It cannot be a unilateral arrangement. It can only be an arrangement based on reciprocity.

[Question indistinct]

[Answer] Again it is written in the decision of the government and the Knesset, namely that 5 years after the autonomy plan comes into effect, we shall be prepared to discuss the problem of sovereignty.

[Question] Which might include the possibility of foreign sovereignty?

[Answer] No.

[Question] Mr Begin, how do you discuss sovereignty?

[Answer] Autonomy. What we suggest is autonomy.

[Question] But you said that you are willing to discuss sovereignty after 5 years. How can this exclude sovereignty of some [words indistinct]?

[Answer] As I said, why a country? If anybody suggests foreign sovereignty, then we shall discuss our sovereignty. In our peace plan we said obviously, clearly that Israel has a right to demand sovereignty in Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip. We leave it open. And 5 years later, we are prepared to discuss it. When the proposal will be that there should be foreign sovereignty, we shall bring our proposal of Israel's sovereignty.

[Question] You think you are not prepared to abandon Israel's right to sovereignty in the West Bank.

[Answer] Oh, no. Why should we. We don't abandon anything. We only said that in order to achieve an agreement, we leave the question of sovereignty open. When we are asked whether we are prepared to discuss it after 5 years, yes, we are prepared to discuss it.

[Question] Mr Prime Minister, could you tell us what is new in the plan that you are taking to Washington? We understand it contains the autonomy plan that you first presented in December. Are there new elements that are being added now? What do you think?

[Answer] No. This is our peace plan as it stands. It is a very good plan. It was considered by the President of the United States as a fair basis for negotiations, a great deal of flexibility; by the secretary of state, a great contribution to the peace-making process. This is the plan which we are going to bring.

[Question] Are there no new options or variables that you are now adding based on the deliberations of the ministerial team and your own negotiations?

[Answer] I beg your pardon.

[Question] Are there no new options or variables that are being added now for this summit conference?

[Answer] No. We don't have to have new options. This is the basis for negotiations as we said time and again.

[Question] Mr Begin, in the cabinet decision there appear to be three goals for the Camp David summit. The first two have to do with trying to make an agreement providing for a peace treaty. Is it possible that this will happen at Camp David and how long are you willing to stay there to test that possibility?

[Answer] We don't know yet. What we know is that the negotiations will be continued the second week, and the beginning will be on Wednesday morning. No timetable was fixed.

[Question] If it should take weeks, are you willing to stay in Camp David and work on it for weeks?

[Answer] I don't think it will take weeks. But it may take many days. Yes. We are willing to stay there.

[Question] And would you comment on the possibility of achieving goals number one and two--a peace treaty or (?full) agreement?

[Answer] We shall present our peace plan, but we basically hope to achieve an agreement, and then there will be a continuation of the negotiations. It is not to be supposed that you can solve the problems of the conflict which lasts for 60 years in a few days, we have to have negotiations.

[Question] Is the cabinet, or rather are you and your team taking to Camp David possibly new formations? So the plan is the same plan, but is there any essential change in the formulations?

[Answer] We discussed various formulations.

[Announcer] A live transmission of Prime Minister Begin speaking to reporters from the prime minister's office after today's cabinet meeting.

TV Commentator on Session

TA272028Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 27 Aug 78 TA

[Excerpt] [Commentator Ya'aqov Ahime'ir] With me in the studio is our political commentator, E.imelekh Ram. Elimelekh, will Israel bring new ideas to Camp David, beyond the cabinet's well-known peace program?

[Answer] I would say that Israel is taking with it the original Israeli program, that which was presented at the Ismailia summit; this program has not changed in principle. On the basis of this peace program, the delegation will take new ideas to Camp David, but these ideas will not be such as, we can say, will turn Israel's position upside down. I would say that Israel will go to Camp David with great openness, without changing its peace program substantively.

[Question] In other words, did the cabinet today give the delegation to Camp David maneuvering room, so that it will be able to maneuver, to raise new ideas?

[Answer] Certainly, yes, the Israeli delegation to Camp David has a fairly large amount of maneuvering room, but the prime minister, the foreign minister and the defense minister will not be able to commit themselves to things which are beyond, or things which deviate from the spirit of Israel's proposal as it was presented in Ismailia. In other words, Mr Begin will not be able to commit himself to revolutionary changes in the peace program.

I would like to point out one thing: We must remember that, in fact, the Israeli peace program has not been discussed between Israel and Egypt. When Mr Begin presented the program to President as-Sadat in Ismailia, the Egyptian answer was: That is your proposal, we will present a proposal of our own. After a relatively long time, the Egyptians did--on the eve of the Leeds conference--the Egyptians did, if you remember, present a document which they called a program regarding withdrawal from Judaea, Samaria and Gaza and security arrangements. I would say that the Israeli delegation will, at the beginning of the conference, opt to discuss both programs, the Israeli and the Egyptian.

[Question] What about the idea of partial permanent settlement? Will Israel raise this on its own initiative?

[Answer] The prime minister said today, after the cabinet session, that since President as-Sadat completely rejected this idea, Israel, on its own initiative, will not propose permanent partial settlements. However, I would say that, further on in the conference, if there is a risk that the conference will come to a dead end, Israel, in order to renew the political momentum, is likely, perhaps, to again propose a solution perhaps such as permanent partial settlements, as the prime minister calls them.

[Question] Do you have any further details about the dropping of Professor Yadin from the trip to Camp David?

[Answer] I do not know whether these are additional details, but there is something curious, quite interesting, in my view. Today it was learned how the meeting was held last night. As you remember, the prime minister appeared yesterday at a rally in Tel Aviv supporting Soviet Jewry. On Saturday the deputy prime minister was at his home in Mikhmoret. During the night, after the prime minister had appeared at that rally, he went to Jerusalem. Professor Yadin also went to Jerusalem from the coast, from Mikhmoret, and when they reached Bet Zayyit, at the entrance to Jerusalem, their cars turned into that settlement and there the meeting between them was held, in the middle of the night.

YADIN INTERVIEWED ON CAMP DAVID, DEFENSE, SETTLEMENTS

TA2715l4Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1410 GMT 27 Aug 78 TA

[Interview with Deputy Prime Minister Yiga'el Yadin on the "Direct Line" phone-in program moderated by Yizhaq Golan--live]

[Excerpts] [Golan] Mr Deputy Prime Minister, today for the first time you are the guest on our program no longer as the leader of the DMC, but as the head of the Democratic Movement. What is your feeling in the new garb?

[Answer] The garb is not new. In fact, I began my political life as the chairman of the Democratic Movement. Now it has gone back, possibly in a different way, to the same situation. The problem is this: We went together for a long way and this decision was a hard one for all of us, but it was unavoidable and, as stated, I think that my colleagues and I, on both sides, went into public life because we believe in our path and if we must now continue on the path--but maybe, to a certain extent, to also start again from the beginning--this should not, of course, prevent any one of us from doing what he understands and as he understands it and this is how I, too, regard matters.

[Question] Yes. We will be going back, during the broadcast, to the reasons for the split in the DMC. However, before we ask about the lessons from this split, a few questions about today's cabinet session. What is the significance of the first decision announced by the prime minister, that Israel will work for an agreement between the sides? Which sides?

[Answer] First of all, there are, in fact, two sides at Camp David. There is Egypt and there is Israel. These, in fact, are the sides involved in the negotiations, this shoud be clear.

[Question] Yes, with the second decision speaking of peace between Israel and its neighbors.

[Answer] Of course, but even before we come to "between [Israel and] its neighbors," first of all we are speaking with the Egyptians there, and this sentences says this clearly, because we will have come there to speak with Egypt; Egypt will speak with us. I think that President Carter and the United States, by the fact that they have made this meeting possible--which, not because of us, could not have been held before that--they are of course contributing a great deal and I assume that here and there, when there is a need to help maybe this or the other side, they will certainly also help, but the negotiations are between us and Egypt.

[Question] Should we understand from this that the reference is to the possibility of a bilateral peace between Israel and Egypt?

[Answer] Nobody knows what may happen there. The agenda is, altogether, completely open.

[Question] No, in view of this decision, I mean, between the sides--and you say that the other side at Camp David is Egypt.

[Answer] We are interested in peace with all the sides in the sense of all the Arab countries surrounding us. At this moment, the only country which is speaking with us, or prepared to speak with us, is Egypt and this is one of the issues--I assume one of the issues--which will be put forward there: whether Egypt wants to make a bilateral agreement with us. Whether it also speaks in the name of other countries. What is the link between the issues which touch on other countries and the issue which are bilateral between us? These are all open questions which I assume will be discussed there frankly.

[Question] Have tactical moves also been authorized, practical ones, in the direction of flexibility on our part? For example, will we make a gesture this time to the president of Egypt and permit him to build a mosque in Santa Katerina, if he again asks for this, and give Al-'Arish back to Egyptian sovereignty?

[Answer] These issues were not discussed today, even in the cabinet session. The issues are much more basic and principled. Our peace program which, in fact, was supported by all of us--and even the United States announced that it regards it as a fair basis for negotiations--to this day, in fact, has not been discussed between the two sides in a basic way. This is what we are coming with. What the Egyptians will come with--we do not know. Recently, at Leeds Castle, they came with some sort of program of their own. So, these are the things with wich our delegation is going there.

It may very well be that, during the negotiations, and these are completely open negotiations, all sorts of proposals will be put forward by each side and the delegation members, and, of course, the prime minister, will have to consider. Of course they, as well as the cabinet, know the general line of the cabinet and the general directives which were agreed upon and they will have to decide from time to time. It may be that there will be several things on which they will not be able to decide themselves, they will have to bring them to the cabinet itself, but the issues you spoke of were not discussed today.

[Question] Fine, but if it is raised, is it to be expected that there will be a readiness on our part?

[Answer] I cannot give you an answer on that. I am sure that if this is raised, if any side raises it, I am sure that there will be a debate on it and I cannot tell you exactly what our position will be because it also depends on what is presented, how it is presented and so on.

[Question] What is your position regarding these two things?

[Answer] At this moment I cannot tell you about my personal position. At one time, when the matter came up--it was also publicized then--I was of the opinion that we should have made a unilateral gesture. All the cabinet members, including the ministers of the DMC as it was then--Tamir and 'Amit and I do not remember if Katz as well, I am not sure--were against a unilateral gesture. We said, a gesture, fine....

[Question] In return for....

[Answer] It is not a matter of in return for, no, we are, after all, not doing personal favors for each other. Fine, if it is part of something, let us speak about it. Today I can no longer tell you exactly what will happen because, as stated, if such a question is raised they will certainly speak about it. What the position will be--I assume that the position will be as the cabinet decided at the time.

[Question] In his speech at the end of a class of the armed forces command college in the general headquarters Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman said that there was a sharp argument about the political solution and that it was now more relevant than at any time in the past. What is the argument about?

[Answer] The argument is simple. Until As-Sadat came--until someone from the Arab countries was prepared to speak with us--the political argument there was within the parties and so was in fact over what each one, each party, or all of us together, wanted. We now, for the first time, since the time As-Sadat came--and this is continuing--no longer speak in a vacuum. We already have an echo and a reaction from the other side as well and, for example, my party, in its platform, both before and now, said that if it was possible to obtain a solution on the basis of territorial compromise, to us it appeared that this was the best solution. The situation at the moment is that the other side is saying no, it is not prepared, and so we have to see what the problems really are on which it is possible to achieve negotiations.

It is hard for me to explain to you about this point--I will explain to you--why we, too, supported the peace program, because as far as the matter involves Judaea and Samaria, if, on the one hand, the other side does not want territorial compromise--and this problem of sovereignty is a very serious one, it is the problem of the dispute. [as heard]

For us, the security problem is the most important of all and there is a consensus on this. What does it say in the program as it will be presented? In the meantime, as far as the matter involves the inhabitants, they will really be given complete autonomy. They will not be able to say that some sort of rule is being forced to oppress the inhabitants living there. In fact, we said even more: the military government is being canceled. And we said--in accordance with the cabinet's decisions as they were announced some time ago--that if the other side after 5 years wants to discuss the problem of sovereignty, fine. This means that this today allows all sides to say that the problem that disturbs them most remains, but with the option open. Let us see, in this situation, what can be done.

[Question] That is clear. Before we turn to the listeners, one more question in this sphere: Does the decision that you will carry out the duties of minister of defense during his absence and that Dr Burg will carry out the duties of the foreign minister, is this intended to compensate the MAFDAL after it expressed fairly sharp opposition to your inclusion in our delegation to the Camp David talks?

[Answer] I do not think there is any connection to this at all. There have already been several cases before this. Generally, when the prime minister is absent, I fulfill his role and if the defense minister is also absent, up to now, at least, each time, then I also deputized for the defense minister and I think that it is natural. But, from time to time, there are several ministers who are absent together and the posts have to be divided. Then you also have to remember that Minister Burg is, let us say, the most senior minister in the cabinet and I think it is only natural that he should be appointed deputy foreign minister. There is no connection to this, in my view, at all....

[Question] But from the aspect of seniority, was the finance minister not due to get something?

[Answer] Look, I do not divide according to seniority and everything connected with this. The finance minister, I think, has only just now returned from abroad. He has problems; he did many things abroad; he has very difficult problems which he has to deal with here. It is not, after all, a matter of presents but the question is who can deal best with the problems.

[Question] Yes. We will turn to the first listener. Is the next listener on the line? Hello? Hello? No, I understand that we have more problems with communications. Let us go back again to an issue on which you have already replied in connection with the future composition of the cabinet. For the moment, it is impossible to know how many ministers your movement will have in the cabinet and whether the portfolios in your hands today will indeed remain as they are even if there are changes.

[Answer] I think it is possible to know.

[Question] Are you prepared to say what the posts are that you now have in the cabinet and which you will not be prepared to give up in the future?

[Answer] The problem is not what we will or will not be prepared to give up. As I said, we entered the cabinet and the cabinet wanted us to enter, we wanted to enter--otherwise this mixture would not have come up--and all the sides had political considerations and I assume that these considerations exist now too. When there was the division of ministries at the time--of course it was not only what we wanted and there are also other cabinet members--but I will give you an example, in order to make it plain: If they were to offer us the Ministry of Religion--not that they would offer it--I assume that we would not agree.

We regarded the position of Minister of Justice as a very important one indeed, because a very large section of the DMC platform deals with problems which demand new legislation, both on matters of crime and on basic laws of the state.

With respect to the Ministry of Labor and Social Betterment, it is obvious that we regarded this ministry as the foundations of all our work. With respect to the economic, or services ministry, as it is called, the Ministry of Transport and Communications--although it was not exactly in accordance with the DMC needs--the problem [of retaining this portfolio] has a certain implication, although indirectly, and the post I had. I entered as deputy prime minister and I think that it is the first time in history that the deputy prime minister--and this was a part of the coalition agreement--asked that he have the post of chairman of the Ministerial Committee for Society and Social Betterment in order to coordinate all social activities. From this you can understand exactly with the issues are in which we are particularly interested.

[Question] That is, you are prepared to give up transport?

[Answer] I did not say that, you did.

[Question] Yes. Is there any listener on the line? Not yet. That being so, we will continue. What is your reaction to the document by Prof Ra'anan Weitz, the head of the Jewish Agency Settlement Department, regarding Judaea and Samaria, which was published on Friday?

[Answer] I will tell you the truth; I have not yet seen that document and I have only heard about it in the press and I do not like judging people just on the basis of excerpted things in the press, which were not said by them. If Ra'anan Weitz said that, in his view, one of the real options was a Palestinian state, then I, of course, am firmly opposed to this--all the movements, all the parties which are in the cabinet and also the main opposition party, at least the Labor Party, are opposed to this, and so I can say that if this is exactly what he said, then of course I am opposed to this very emphatically.

[Question] But you have certainly also heard that Mr Matityahu Drobles, who is the head of the Settlement Division in the Jewish Agency, in reation to Ra'anan Weitz' proposal, at once ordered the preparation of a settlement program for Judaea and Samaria; in those same regions Ra'anan Weitz eliminated for settlement.

[Answer] Look, I cannot manage now, particularly nowadays, to go over all the press. There is quite a lot of the DMC and I hardly manage to go over that, but if someone said that he had prepared such a program, then all right, they are making programs. The problems are afterward, in the operational stage, and on this matter there are ways and there are methods and institutions which determine and decide.

[Question] No, in your view, is this the right time for the preparation of settlement programs for Judaea and Samaria, today?

[Answer] In my view, no.

[Question] Mr Deputy Prime Minister, what is your reaction to the letter by the 100 officers, reserve soldiers, in which they say that they are not prepared to spill their blood for the sake of greater Israel and that they will not guard the settlements during their reserve service?

[Answer] I think that there is no need to react to this very much. A soldier who serves in the IDF is--the IDF is subordinate to the Government of Israel and it is not each soldier who decides what he is fighting for, not even the IDF decides what it is fighting for, the cabinet decides. It is inconceivable--if it was not said it would even be ridiculous--that each soldier should say what he is prepared to fight for. These are not prepared to fight for one issue; another group of soldiers will come along and say: We are not prepared to fight for another issue. This thing is impossible and I am sure that the IDF will deal with the matter as it should.

[Question] Maybe we will move on to our northern area. The Syrians are in fact waging a war of extermination against the Christian population in Lebanon. What, in your view, should Israel's reaction be?

[Answer] The reaction of the Cabinet of Israel to what the Syrians are doing to the Christians in Lebanon has already been given several times and full expression on this matter was also made by the prime minister in a special television broadcast. Of course there are also additional problems here, problems of Israel's security and the Syrian presence in Lebanon where, in fact, they have no business.

[Question] They have in fact taken over control of Lebanon.

[Answer] Correct, and so the problems are very complicated. What I can tell you for the moment is that the Cabinet of Israel is following closely whatever happens there.

COMMENTATOR ON POSSIBLE ISRAELI 'SCRIPT' AT CAMP DAVID

TA2514211 Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 25 Aug 78 p 14 TA

[Dan Margalit commentary]

[Text] The government has refrained from taking at their face value the reports from the Israeli Embassy in Washington about the U.S. preparations for the Camp David conference. The cabinet convened in its capacity as a Ministerial Committee on Security Affairs, in order to read the telegrams from the United States, and got the impression that at the present stage of the political contacts Washington lets Jerusalem and Cairo hear only such sounds as are pleasant to their ears. The U.S. tranquilized Israel with formulations which try to emasculate the declaration of principles by sterilizing UN Security Council Resolution 242, and what has been hinted to Egypt is not known in Jerusalem. It is assumed, therefore, that the time of pressure will only come at the Camp David meeting.

Experts in Jerusalem--whose opinion does not always derive from contact with the senior echelons in Jerusalem--regard the U.S. pressure that is to be expected as the key problem for the evaluation of the outcome of the Camp David conference. U.S. diplomats complain that each side to the conflict claims that pressure is exerted only on itself, but this is not true. Following the Leeds conference Egypt refused to return to the negotiating table. Saudi Arabia also refused to give the continuation of President as-Sadat's initiative its blessing. All of a sudden there has been an about-face, and they agreed to the Camp David conference. This consent was preceded by heavy U.S. pressure.

The government would have liked to know whether Washington was distributing its pressure among Jerusalem, Cairo and Riyadh, on the assumption that real pressure is also being exerted on the Arabs. Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman was able to explain at a closed session of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee that he was not going to Camp David solely in order to refute criticism but mainly in order to advance toward the achievement of a peace agreement. But even the ministers who think that Washington has exerted heavy pressure on the Arabs before the Camp David conference was arranged were unable to tell their colleagues with certainty that such pressure would continue. On the contrary, there prevails the suspicion that there will be a U.S. countervalue for the Arab agreement to come to Camp David, and that Israel will be asked to foot the bill.

Nevertheless, some of the ministers are weaving a fabric of political cloth which contains rosy threads. Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan does not rule out the possibility that the Camp David conference will be no more than a futile discussion. The defense minister's concept was not far from Dayan's script. When 'Ezer Weizman appeared before the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee he tried to convince its members that at Camp David the government will not be satisfied with refuting criticism, but will seek an overall peace agreement.

The ministers and elected Knesset members got the impression that on two subjects there exist nuances between the expressions of Weizman and those of Prime Minister Begin. Whereas Begin emphasized as first priority the government's duty "to prevent war," Weizman prefers to accord that subject second place. The first place, according to him, is reserved for the effort to achieve a peace agreement. He also goes along with Dayan in refraining from mentioning the permanent partial agreement as an objective of the Camp David conference. Dayan certainly does not ignore the chance of reaching an additional interim agreement, that will carry an impressive name and which will practically amount to a withdrawal to the Al-'Arish-Ra's Muhammad line, but this is not his preferred option.

"The rosy script," whose authors carefully emphasize that its implementation is by no means assured, is woven crosswise:

A. The United States is interested in the Camp David conference in order to leave the Soviet Union "out of the picture." This is a factor that is liable to change--as we saw in October 1977, when Dayan successfully conducted "brutal" talks with the leaders of the U.S. administration in order to attain an annulment of their joint announcement with the Soviets. Now such a threat does not exist, but there is no guarantee that it may not return and become a threatening fact.

B. The United States "is building" its Middle East policy on a divided Arab world, in which Syria, Iraq and the terrorists do not take part in the political moves. Saudi Arabia is giving its consent to it--after some hesitation and aboutfaces, combined with considerable soulsearching.

C. Between Egypt, which shows a great deal of interest in the Palestinian issue, and Israel, there exist a number of points of agreement, which did not disappear even during the recent cooling-off of relations between Jerusalem and Cairo. The two most important points of agreement are the willingness to abolish Israeli military government and the recognition of the need for a transition period. The transition period suits Israel because Israel wants to test "the substance of peace," as it will develop in reality, and in order to overcome the ideological misgivings of those who support the greater Israel plan. Egypt needs the transition period in order to try to set up a Palestinian leadership as an alternative to the PLO.

One can assume that the Egyptian stand was decided upon after a clarification with part of the Palestinian leadership in Judaea and Samaria and the Gaza Strip. The semioptimists in the government hope that Egypt has come to realize that the Palestinian leadership in the territories does not actually rule out the idea of autonomy during a transition period, as it does in public, and that Egypt wants free movement of citizens and goods between the Arab population centers and Israel.

D. There are also a number of points of agreement between Israel and the United States. The Americans show understanding for Israel's demand that some way be found for the presence of the IDF in Judaea and Samaria. The IDF would not demonstrate its presence in population centers in the territories, and most certainly will not do that if the military government is abolished, including the administration [in the Ministry of Defense] that activates it. But it is inconceivable that Egypt and the U.S. should not understand, that, as a reaction to any future acts of terror, the IDF will act in Nabulus no less than it reacts in southern Lebanon. There is also reason to believe that Secretary of State Cyrus Vance does not regard the demand for some IDF presence in Judaea and Samaria as a problem without a solution.

E. There is a chance that the formulation of a declaration of principles may be found, in spite of the way it is sometimes regarded by leaders in their speeches. Israel has agreed to discuss the future sovereignty over Judaea and Samaria after 5 years. Egypt demands that Arab rights be recognized immediately, and the United States proposes the formulation "within 5 years," and hints that the starting point would be after 2 years. It is possible that the U.S. formula is acceptable to the Egyptians.

The authors of the rosy script do not conceal the difficulties. The most prominent one--but not the only one--is the demand that, during the transition period, Israel should forego the establishment of additional settlements in Judaea and Samaria. Begin has not hinted that he would agree to that. He also refuses to give up the administration which oversees the military government. What makes things no less difficult: the points of agreement with the United States are not identical with the clauses of agreement with Egypt. Egypt agrees to a transition period, the United States agrees to an IDF presence, and there is no congruence between those two points.

Another difficulty has to do with the atmosphere that will be created in Camp David. President Carter will meet with Begin and with as-Sadat separately, and subsequently a joint meeting will be arranged. Experience has shown that the three leaders do not frequently consult their ministers and their entourage, although at least in one instance the Egyptian officials succeeded in persuading as-Sadat to change his stance. Begin and as-Sadat, and to some extent Carter too, decide on postures and choose formulations to their hearts' content and thus create "accomplished facts." At least part of the Begin-Carter talks did not go well. The famous "chemistry" did not function, and Carter subsequently announced that an almost total "no" characterized Israeli policy.

Begin had to face a problem. He described it Wednesday night, during the closed session of the Likud faction: he wants settlements, but is not interested in a rift with the United States. How does one bridge those two desires? Which should he choose? He did not disclose that. If the Americans and Egyptians should ask him to dissolve existing settlements--he would answer them with a "no;" but he did not reveal what he would do if he should be asked to abstain from establishing additional settlements during a certain period.

Thus, even his conclusion is not clearcut. On the one hand he sees signs that the Camp David conference is likely to end in success; on the other hand, in his opinion, one has to prepare the public for pressures that would be exerted after the conference. A state of uncertainty characterizes the Camp David preparations.

MA'ARIV COMMENTATOR DISCUSSES CAMP DAVID TALKS

TA2510001Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 25 Aug 78 p 15 TA

[Yosef Harif commentary]

[Excerpts] During the consultations that took place this week in Jerusalem in preparation for the Camp David summit, two or three of the participants wished "to remind" Prime Minister Menahem Begin that when Israel is prepared to say that it accepts Security Council Resolution 242 as a basis for any declaration of principles (provided that the other articles are acceptable to it), it is in fact accepting the principle of withdrawal from Judaea and Samaria....

Visibly impatient, the prime minister reacted to this by saying that he wished the matter would at long last be left alone, as there already is a cabinet decision on the matter and there is nothing new about it....

Indeed, Begin does not need any reminders on this matter. No one is more well versed in the correspondence with the U.S. administration and in all the cabinet's declarations and commitments on matters over which there are differences of opinion in the political negotiations than he. He was, therefore, not unaware of the fact that 1 day before the U.S. administration received the Israeli proposal for a declaration of principles based on Resolution 242--which was during the meeting with President Carter in Washington on 21 March 1978--Carter asked if what was said in the Israeli version of the declaration of principles--("there will be a withdrawal of the Israeli armed forces from territories captured during the 1967 dispute")--means that there will be a withdrawal on all fronts? The former cabinet legal adviser, Prof Aharon Baraq, was the one who answered the President. He said: "Resolution 242 applies to all the areas...."

If Begin showed impatience upon hearing the same question during this week's consultations, it was not because he is indifferent to the question or because he changed his opinion with respect to the withdrawal from Judaea and Samaria. Begin probably thinks that this constant pecking at this matter is simply not in the right place. During that very same talk at the White House, Professor Baraq elaborated on the response to President Carter's question and said: "Not only is 242 applicable to all the areas, but the real question is the question of withdrawal and we, Israel, have submitted a plan for self-rule which is consistent with Resolution 242. This is our position, our plan is open to negotiation...but our main point is that our proposal for self-rule is consistent with 242."

The preparations in Jerusalem for Camp David are being concluded. On Thursday, yesterday, the interoffice preparations team ("the Tamir committee") submitted its recommendations to the prime minister. On Sunday, the day after tomorrow, the cabinet plans to sum up the political debate and make decisions. In short, "activity has reached its height" in the light of reports that President Carter, too, has received recommendations scrupulously prepared by the White House and National Security Council expert team; we have similarly been advised that President as-Sadat would come to Camp David with established positions. As the time for the curtain to go up comes nearer, the atmosphere becomes more tense and the fears of failure do not disappear even though the U.S. administration is taking pains--through the media--to create an optimistic atmosphere.

It seems that there is really no other scale by which one can examine this optimism properly (Ambassador Dinitz has also caught some of it, as one could gather from his evaluations, which reached Jerusalem this week, based on his current contacts with various members of the administration) but this: Is the essence of the withdrawal as Israel conceives it, as far as Judaea and Samaria are concerned, at least acceptable to the United States?

Here Washington owes Israel a proof of Egypt's real intentions. During last month's Leeds Castle talks, when Egyptian Foreign Minister Ibrahim Kamil expressed the stubborn line according to which the Israeli withdrawal must be complete and there can be no talk of a military presence in Judaea and Samaria--"not even one Israeli soldier," and one should uproot all the Israeli settlements, etc.--U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance told Moshe Dayan in an intimate conversation: What we heard here at the discussions (from Kamil and his aides) is not what we (the United States) heard from the Egyptians prior to the Leeds Castle talks; it was not in the spirit of the well-known Egyptian position....

Well, then, now we must wait and see which position is presented by President as-Sadat at Camp David, for if there is talk of "a different stance," this means nothing but the good things that were voiced on various occasions by As-Sadat himself.

This expectation as well as the desire not to waste the credit Vance gave the Israeli cabinet when he praised the things he heard from Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan at Leeds Castle are what dictates the Israeli Cabinet's preparations for the top meeting--as Moshe Dayan defined it--at Camp David.

This is the background against which it would be easier to understand why the prime minister wanted the issue of "the withdrawal" from Judaea and Samaria to be left alone after various ministers brought it up in the last few days. Begin and Dayan are determined not to let either the United States or Egypt maneuver the Israelis into a position which would let Israel be presented to the world as "an obstacle to peace." This means putting an emphasis on an Israeli willingness to discuss everything--withdrawal and a territorial compromise and sovereignty--if the other party, in this case Egypt, is prepared to discuss all these and not just make ultimatum-like demands as was done at the Leeds Castle meeting.

Israel has already said that it was prepared to discuss "a territorial compromise" as well, if this should be proposed by the Arabs, and that it is prepared to discuss the future sovereignty over Judaea and Samaria at the end of 5 years--as the Arabs want. However, this willingness in itself does not sufficiently clarify what is meant.

In expressing willingness to discuss a territorial compromise it was not simply stated: a compromise, but "a concrete proposal for a peace treaty based on a territorial compromise." The emphasis was on concrete. (Dayan: "Why did we add the word 'concrete'? So that no one could talk about 'minor alterations' with us and call it 'a territorial compromise.' We would only be prepared to discuss something concrete.")

As for the issue of the sovereignty (after 5 years), Israel has expressed willingness to discuss it, but has not expressed a commitment to reach an agreement. It is true that Israel has at the same time added that even though it was not committed in that respect, it is possible to find a solution even to the question of sovereignty.

By the way, an article concerning the sovereignty has been very carefully formulated in accordance with the learned opinion of Prof Aharon Baraq. What does that mean? At the time, Professor Baraq expressed the idea that "sovereignty may have dozens of solutions" and that it was not a hard and fast thing. Thus, for example, there can be a partition which we call functional "when the question of who has the key to what remains undetermined."

From this it could be understood what Dayan meant when he said that Israel would be prepared to show "maximum openness" at Camp David and look for meeting points without relinquishing its "points of principle." The latter too, were made no secret by Dayan.

The principles which I see as essential for Israel, Dayan said in the midst of the preparations for the summit and which we must insist on are four:

--The right to settle everywhere, even though it does not necessarily mean that we must in fact settle everywhere, but certainly no partition.

--Freedom of passage. Just as Arabs from the territory enter Israel without a visa and without any license, so Jews would be allowed to go anywhere in Judaea and Samaria.

--Israel's security. The IDF must have the right to remain anywhere headquarters finds necessary--up to the Jordan River--and in the Gaza Strip. The IDF presence will be defined: Only to secure Isrel's defense, not to interfere in any way with the lives of the inhabitants within the bounds of the autonomy.

--The issue of the sovereignty--Israel will not impose its sovereignty over Judaea and Samaria, but will also totally reject foreign sovereignty (Dayan: If the Arabs have sovereignty, no doubt soon the demand would be made--on behalf of the sovereignty--to remove the IDF and to uproot the Israeli settlements).

Since Begin and Dayan agree with these principles, it is really not important what "alternatives" would be suggested to the cabinet on the tactical plane. "The secret discussions" would not be able to conceal the well-known secret as Dayan concisely expressed it in listing "the points of principle."

These "secrets" were long known to Washington, long before the coming arrival of the prime minister and his team at Camp David. From the little that could be learned about the U.S. preparations for the summit talks it emerges that indeed these "points of principle" of Israel's are being well weighed there. Carter, who has expressed his thoughts about failure aloud, detailing what this might mean for the United States and for him personally, tried to cover himself in advance when he said that it must be clear that he does not expect the summit to constitute such a full success as would bring about signing a peace treaty, but that if he succeeded in bringing about an honest and sincere discussion which would enable the parties to pinpoint the points of disagreement, by that--Carter thinks--a new framework for peace would be established.

This is, of course, a rather modest request but in order to achieve even that the President must maneuver between the poles most cautiously. It seems that Carter is going to move very carefully.

SENIOR ELEMENTS WORRIED ABOUT LEBANON DEVELOPMENTS

TA272038Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 27 Aug 78 TA

[Text] The chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee, Moshe Arens, and the chairman of the Subcommittee on Lebanon Affairs, Yig'al Allon, have been invited to meet with the prime minister in his office in Jerusalem tomorrow morning. The meeting was convened following an urgent appeal by the subcommittee, which heard a report today by senior defense elements about the Syrian offensive in southern Lebanon. The committee formed the impression from the report that developments in Lebanon are putting the Israeli interest there in immediate danger. Our military correspondent, 'Ammiram Nir, reports on this:

Senior elements in Israel said today that the latest Syrian move was not local or limited but a defined stage in a very well-planned strategic offensive whose immediate objective is to finally encircle the Christians in Lebanon and cut off their main supply artery via the sea. The fact that the Syrians carried out a limited offensive, far from Beirut and for a short time, only emphasizes, in the view of the Israeli elements, the Syrians' talent in working consistently toward their objective without giving Israel sufficient excuse to intervene.

The Syrian policy of creeping, but constant, erosion of the Christian strength in Lebanon is now, according to the evaluations in Israel, moving toward the phase of picking the ripe fruit. If Israel does not decide quickly where its containment line is, it is likely to find on its north, more rapidly than has been expected, another Syrian front. This is the meaning of the urgent request by the heads of the Foreign Affairs and Security Committee, MK's Arens and Allon, to meet with the prime minister and the defense minister.

On the issue of Lebanon there is no unanimity of view in the political-defense establishment in Israel. Several ministers think that Lebanon is not Israel's main concern and it is not worth taking the risk, because of it, of a military confrontation and harming the critical political process of Camp David. These ministers cast doubts on the ability of the Christians in the north to efficiently help themselves even in the long term. As opposed to them, important people in the defense establishment, as well as many members of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee, believe that Israel must inform the Syrians, very clearly, of a red line for the Syrians' advance in the war against the Christians in the north. If this red line is credible, this will lead to both an increase in the consolidation and ability to stand firm of the Christians and to a slowing, maybe even to a stopping, of the Syrian advance.

In any case, those holding these views say the loss of Lebanon is a certain Israeli security defeat, while Camp David can only bring a doubtful political gain. At any rate, in both camps there are many who agree that any lack of decision in Jerusalem is a clear signal to the Syrians to continue with their action.

ARENS DISCUSSES POSSIBILITY OF INTERVENTION IN LEBANON

TA2808l0Y Jerusalem POST in English 28 Aug 78 p 1 TA

[By Joshua Brilliant]

[Excerpts] Tel Aviv--Israel should intervene forcefully if need be in Lebanon to save the Christian population there, Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee Chairman Moshe Arens told the Jerusalem POST yesterday.

Taking issue with Israelis who have urged restraint so as not to give Egypt a pretext for torpedoing next month's Camp David talks, Arens said that the prime minister's meeting with the Egyptian and American presidents should not be allowed to serve as a cover for a Syrian onslaught in Lebanon.

Arens indicated that As-Sadat may not object to Israeli intervention. The Egyptians understand--perhaps better than the Americans--what the Syrians really want, and it is not clear whether Egypt's President Anwar as-Sadat will support Damascus, the chairman of the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee said.

ISRAEL URGES BEIRUT CHRISTIANS NOT TO PROVOKE SYRIA

TA2714llY Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 27 Aug 78 p 13 TA

[By Shemu'el Segev]

[Excerpt] If the foreign reports about Camille Sham'un's coming to Jerusalem are true, then it may be assumed that the old Maronite leader proferred a most gloomy description of the situation of the Christians in Beirut and in northern Lebanon: the camp is divided, the fighters are weary, there is a continuous erosion in manpower, a serious lack of military equipment, and a growing daily increase of Syrian pressure. The Christians claim that the Syrians are concentrating considerable forces around Beirut, and hence they brought up the assumption about a Syrian tendency to make use of the Camp David summit to liquidate Christian power in the land of the cedars.

Israel is not ignoring the desperate state of the Christians, but it differs with them concerning several of their assessments of the situation. Thus, for example, Israel has no tangible indications that President al-Asad is indeed contemplating a decisive strike against the Christians in Beirut within the next few days. Israel believes that if the Christian militias in Beirut refrain from provoking the Arab Deterrent Force, the Syrians will have no excuse for resuming their shelling. Even if nothing is said openly to that effect, it may be assumed that Israel suspects that at lease in a number of cases it was Christian provocation which resulted in a Syrian reaction, and not vice versa. If this suspicion is correct, then it means that forces loyal to Camille Sham'un deliberately tried to violate the cease-fire in Beirut, hoping that Israel would intervene with force to prevent their annihilation by the Syrians.

Israel rejected this tendency to embroil it in war and explained to Camille Sham'un, as well as to other Christian leaders, what Yizhaq Rabin and Shim'on Peres had explained to them in the past: material and moral aid--yes; premeditated war against the Syrians--no.

Nonetheless, it cannot be said that this cautious approach by the Begin-Dayan-Weizman trio, which deliberately refrains from extending the nature of Israel's commitment to the Christians in Lebanon, is accepted by the entire political establishment in Israel. Even after the meeting in the night at Begin's home last week, there are factors in Israel who believe that, regardless of what Camille Sham'un's considerations are, Israel ought to exploit the situation in order to deliver a decisive blow to Syria--be it for the purpose of breaking the Syrian's war machine, or to mellow Syria's positions on the subject of the political negotiations with Israel. The proponents of this view believe that even if President al-Asad perseveres in his refusal to join As-Sadat's initiative and conduct peace negotiations with Israel, then a serious blow will incapacitate the ability of the Syrian Army to wage war, and will limit Al-Asad's maneuvering space in his struggle against As-Sadat. Those who subscribe to this view think that a death blow to the Syrian war machine will limit the ability of the "eastern front" to function properly, facilitating the removal of a danger of war for many years.

This consideration, no matter how great the element of risk, is not to be rejected out of hand. It should be noted that that view is not currently held by the Israeli Cabinet. The Israeli position, as it came to the fore in the contacts with the Christian leaders, is that the status quo should be maintained, that one should avoid provoking the Syrians, but prevent them from seizing full control over Lebanon, and let President Sarkis impose his authority over the entire state. If the Christians in the north follow the "rules of the game," there will also be fewer points of friction in the south. The Israeli consideration is that in view of the responsible approach the Israeli Cabinet is showing toward the struggle between the Christians and the Syrian Army in Beirut, President al-Asad will also demonstrate a similarly responsible approach and will be mindful of Israel's security considerations regarding the "defensive belt' that today encircles the Christian enclaves in southern Lebanon.

AMUZEGAR RESIGNS; SHARIF-EMAMI FORMS NEW GOVERNMENT

LD270830Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0800 GMT 27 Aug 78 LD

[Text] Mr Jamshid Amuzegar this morning submitted his resignation to the shah. At 1030, Eng Ja'afar Sharif-Emami was received by the shah at Saadabad Palace and introduced the new cabinet. At 1130 Sharif-Emami, the new prime minister, spoke to reporters. Details of this will be reported in the 1400 newscasts.

The members of the new cabinet are as follows:

Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance	Mohammad Yeganeh
Minister of War	Lt Gen Reza 'Azimi
Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs	Ezatollah Yazdanpanah
Minister of State for Executive Affairs	Manuchehr Azmun
Minister of Post, Telegraph and Telephone	Karim Mo'tamedi
Minister of Education and Training	Manuchehr Ganji
Minister of Industries and Mines	Reza Amin
Minister of Health and Social Welfare	Nasrollah Mozhdehi
Minister of Interior	Lieutenant General Qarabaghi
Minister of State and Director of the Endowment Organization	'Ali Naqi Kani
Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development	Amir Parviz
Minister of State and Director of the Planning and Budget Organization	Hasan 'Ali Mehran
Minister of Culture and Arts	Forughi
Minister of Labor and Social Affairs	Kazem Badi'i
Minister of Energy	Jahangir Mahd Mina
Minister of Housing and Urban Development	Abini
Minister of Information and Tourism	Ameli Tehran
Minister of Foreign Affairs	Amir Khosro Afshar-Qasemlu

Sharif-Emami Issues Statement

LD271234Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1000 GMT 27 Aug 78 LD

[Text of 27 August statement to the Iranian people by Prime Minister Ja'afar Sharif-Emami--read by announcer]

[Text] Now that by the will of God and with the support and cooperation of my dear countrymen I have been asked by his imperial majesty the shahanshah to form a government and undertake responsibility for the country's affairs, the situation in the country and in Iranian society has become so sensitive that without the cooperation of all national forces, all those interested in the independence of the country and its territorial sovereignty, it will be impossible to restore order. There is no doubt that as long as all national forces are not mobilized to save the country, there is no hope for a bright future, advancing our society toward welfare, well-being, order and comfort.

There is no doubt that in recent years our country has gone through some periods of ups and downs and has overcome a great many political and economic problems. It must be pointed out, however, that the rapid pace has unfortunately created some disorders which in many cases have hindered economic progress and disrupted welfare matters.

Considering this fact, there is no doubt that the consistent struggle by the noble people of Iran and the efficiency of the Iranian society's workers have made great changes in our country. Had we anticipated the waste resulting from this rapid pace, we could have had a healthy and effective infrastructure for the society's national economy, on the basis of a democratic economy. One cannot hide the fact, however, that the autocratic shortcomings in Iran, coupled with an unnecessary bureaucracy, could not control the waste resulting from the rapid pace. On the contrary, they prepared such a fertile ground for corruption that its daily-increasing expansion is leading our country to the brink of disaster.

It is now time for all of us to rise to save the country. To achieve this, the present government is determined to avoid any autocracy incompatible with Iranian laws. In promoting and implementing this, religious precepts and definite respect for the religious community and Islamic decrees, from which the constitution receives inspiration and which it guards, will always remain before us in all cases. This will be carried out until the change in the general policy of the country is felt by all classes of society. Obviously, achieving this end will not be possible unless a consistent, prolonged and all-embracing struggle against corruption and the corrupt takes place and all those who have in any form misused the treasury, abused their government influence in order to satisfy their personal greed, or violated other people's rights are dealt with according to the law and punished accordingly.

Dealing with agriculture and national production until self-sufficiency is gradually achieved are among the top priorities of the government program. In this respect the need for a general review of all laws governing these two sectors is being felt right now. Measures will be taken so that the country's healthy agriculture may become an infrastructure for Iran's new industry and so that the country's industrialization process within the framework of national interests and public interests can be made possible.

The government program gives top priority to providing public amenities, like water, power, health care and roads, in a way that will benefit all classes of society. Obviously, such a move ought to begin in the rural areas, so that, on the one hand, they may be based on the budget principle of decentralization in the true sense and, on the other, so that they may help with a just distribution of national incomes.

Special attention to youth affairs, improvement of universities and education and training, based on national and social interests, creation of possibilities to enable all classes of society to participate in determining the future of their country and the establishment of constructive democracy in all aspects of the country will always be borne in mind by the present government. There is no doubt that every qualified individual will be able to enjoy free elections and actively participate in legal parties.

Meanwhile, it must be stressed that officials and law enforcement personnel who failed to carry out their legal duties during the recent events will be prosecuted; the government will not allow any violations of the people's rights or of their lives and property by anyone. The government is deeply concerned with the comprehensive strengthening of legislative power, with not interfering with the judicial branch and with securing its independence. Unnecessary luxury items will not be allowed from now on and any indulgence in luxury by government organizations will disappear. Furthermore, no one will be allowed to illegally interfere in the affairs of the country or make personal recommendations.

My dear brothers and sisters, now that fatal dangers are threatening our country, let us all rise to save the country in the world-illuminating light of the Koran, the sublime precepts of Islam and within the framework of the constitution, so that we may not be ashamed, on this momentous historical path, in the eyes of history, the country and future generations.

Signed: Prime Minister Ja'afar Sharif-Emami

Holds Press Conference

LD271246Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1000 GMT 27 Aug 78 LD

[Text] Having been received by the shah today, Prime Minister Sharif-Emami later took part in a press conference and answered correspondents' questions: [begin recording]

[Sharif-Emami] His imperial majesty the shahanshah looked at the statement outlining the government's plan, which has already been distributed to the press. Within this framework, we are going to hold a meeting right now to prepare each ministry's program. After the government program is handed over to the shah, we shall ask the houses of parliament to hold extraordinary meetings to debate and approve the program.

The present situation requires the establishment of some order; afterward, the first priority will be the question of agriculture. In this sector, we will have to reach self-sufficiency gradually. Then there is the question of housing, followed by problems concerning youths and the universities.

[Indistinct question on the restoration of order]

[Answer] The plan is to establish a compromise among all strata of society, so that a better understanding can be created. All issues should be debated and discussed and the differences resolved. The opposition's views; that is, those which are genuine and acceptable, will be implemented. There are other views which require more time; this too will be announced. That is to say, they cannot be implemented now but will be in time.

There may be other views that may be incorrect; these too will be clarified and explained to the opposition members, pointing out that they are wrong. Thus, total understanding will be created among all classes.

[Indistinct question]

[Answer] No, I have no position in the Rastakhiz Party; I am only the country's prime minister.

[Question] Is the people's role specified in your program for the future?

[Answer] Definitely, their role is to cooperate with us. We aim to attract the cooperation of all classes of people, for without their assistance and cooperation we will not be able to do anything. People will be taken into consideration everywhere.

[Question] Mr Sharif-Emami, when the question of your premiership was raised, the news media and political quarters in the country said that your government will be a national unity [interrupted by Sharif-Emami]

[Answer] This is true; we shall make arrangements so that all classes of people will seek conciliation, understanding, cooperation, so that all the forces take the same path and all work for the welfare of the people and the country. [end recording]

Shah Addresses New Cabinet

LD271700Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1000 GMT 27 Aug 78 LD

[27 Aug recorded statement by Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi to new cabinet, following introduction of the ministers to the shah by Prime Minister Ja'afar Sharif-Emami]

[Text] I congratulate you, the cabinet. In the statement which will be issued by the prime minister, certain new policies have been outlined of which you will be informed. I hope that the few essential tasks which we face will be implemented in an atmosphere of fraternity, order, peace and cooperation. I am not going to go into details, as all these points and the program will be outlined in the government statement.

One point of extreme significance is to solve people's problems which require the government's urgent attention. Another point which I hardly need to mention, because it is so outstanding, is adherence to Islamic precepts. This point enjoys top priority, and some of the measures which are to be taken in this connection might be announced this very day. Another point is a prolonged struggle against corruption, for which both the government and the Justice Ministry should prepare themselves. Another point is the issue of education and training, from the nursery school to university level. The Ministry of Education and Training plays a part in this. This ministry should pay close attention to two things: the provision of the means of education, that is, classrooms; and the availability of teachers. Taking care of teachers' living conditions is also important. Big steps have recently been taken on this question. I hope that the treasury (?can meet) these needs. What we expect in return from the teachers is the training of the future generation.

Another point is the situation in the universities. In this respect, the minister of sciences is obviously expected to submit his plan as soon as possible, so that the board of trustees of universities be a board which represents everybody, including the board members. There is after all a possibility that some members of the board of trustees might be elected by university professors. This could be achieved through understanding and cooperation among professors themselves. The professors in turn should be in contact with students, no doubt about that. Consequently, with a board of trustees composed of some members elected by professors and some citizens having some controls, one could expect the universities to become places of learning. In a situation like this, where the holding of assemblies and other similar meetings is free, all can take part in them, but once they enter the universities they are expected to study.

Of course, once parliament meets again, the government is to present it with two bills. One concerns the freedom of assembly within the limitations and regulations which are in force in any civilized country. We are not trying to invent something. But the point is that these gatherings and assemblies cannot be allowed to be armed ones, as is the case in other countries, or hostile or staged in places other than the ones specified; these assemblies should not be allowed to hinder traffic and so forth and so on. We do tend to blindly emulate others in certain matters.

Another bill is the freedom of the press. The limitations governing this freedom also concern the issue of a plaintiff lodging a complaint against the press. This will obviously be attended to.

Considering your experiences and lifetime service to this country, and in view of the fact that anybody who has a part in this responsibility, in addition to his ministerial responsibilities, undertakes extra, national duty as well, I hope that measures will be taken to bring this caravan safely home and pursue the building of a progressive, powerful and strong Iran.

Cabinet Meets

LD271659Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1600 GMT 27 Aug 78 LD

[Text] The cabinet held its first session under Prime Minister Mr Ja'afar Sharif-Emami, at the Prime Ministry at noon today. After this session, Mr Sharif-Emami told correspondents that urgent issues had been discussed and decisions made. The prime minister said that at this meeting it had been decided that the ministers should study the programs of their ministries and reports will be heard at the cabinet meeting tomorrow.

Regarding the government's program and whether or not the programs of the previous government will be used, the prime minister said that what is necessary and useful for our country will have priority and will be implemented. Mr Sharif-Emami then said: You should bear in mind that the previous government was not a [word indistinct] government. It was an institution of ours and of this country.

Minister of State on Policy

LD271722Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1600 GMT 27 Aug 78 LD

[Text] Mr Manuchehr Azmun, minister of state for executive affairs, said: This government will establish direct relations with all strata of society, especially the religious leaders, and will persistently endeavor to honor religious values. Mr Azmun made this point during an interview with correspondents. He added: From now on, the doors of the Prime Ministry and of all executive organizations are open to the people. Officials, ministers and those in charge of the ministries ought to see to the people's problems and difficulties with patience, thoughtfulness and farsightedness.

Regarding the nature of Rastakhiz Party activity, Mr Azmun said: In accordance with the constitution, the activity of all parties will be free and the Rastakhiz Party can no longer be an all-embracing party. If the Rastakhiz Party is able to find a place for itself in society, naturally it will be able to remain active in the capacity of one of the parties. Regarding the nature of the government's relations with this party, the minister of state for executive affairs said: The government's relation with the Rastakhiz Party will be similar to our relation with other parties. He added: A subject of special attention is attendance of government officials, ministers and deputies at their place of duty. They should be present at the place of duty the whole time. Mr Azmun said: Giving inappropriate promises will be avoided, and, naturally, there should be a definite fulfillment of promies that are being made.

Justice Minister Interviewed

LD271728Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1600 GMT 27 Aug 78 LD

[Text] At the end of the new cabinet's session, Mr Mohammad Baheri, minister of justice, said at an interview with correspondents: The judicial machinery ought to be strong enough to follow up any deviation as soon as it takes place and to punish those who cause it. Mr Baheri said of the bill on demonstrations: This is part of the government policy. This is, of course, a very basic task, but detailed discussion was not held on all matters. The ministers responsible for each ministry will submit their programs to the cabinet for discussion; the government will then prepare its complete program on the basis of this and will present it to the parliament so that it can be put into effect by the government after ratification by the two houses.

PRIME MINISTER ORDERS ALL CASINOS CLOSED

LD272106Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2000 GMT 27 Aug 78 LD

[Text] The PARS news agency reported this evening that Eng Ja'afar Sharif-Emami, prime minister, in a letter to the head of the police organization of the imperial government, has issued an order for the closure of all gambling houses and casinos throughout the country. The text of the prime minister's letter is as follows:

Lieutenant General Samadianpur, head of the imperial government's police organization: In order to honor religious values and implement the sacred Islamic law in the interest of a healthy economy in the community, please issue an order to close all gambling houses and casinos in all the country's provinces. The imperial government's police organization will bear responsibility for the implementation of this order.

[Signed] Ja'afar Sharif-Emami, prime minister

TEHRAN: ABADAN BAZAAR SET ON FIRE

LD270732Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0500 GMT 27 Aug 78 LD

[Text] At 1530 yesterday, the main Abadan Bazaar was set on fire by a number of trouble-makers. As a result, some 200 shops constructed from wood and mat were burned down. The fire was brought under control after the National Iranian Oil Company firemen arrived on the scene. The burned stores included shops selling provisions and timber.

PARIS PAPER REPORTS RADIO, TV INTERVIEWS WITH SHAH

LD251131Y Paris LE FIGARO in French 24 Aug 78 p 7 LD

[Excerpts] The French had two opportunities yesterday to hear the shah of Iran, who, in an interview broadcast by Radio Luxemburg and then during a conversation with Edouard Lor presented by Antenne 2, mentioned the situation in his country, the aims of his policy and the obstacles he is encountering.

In the first broadcast the Iranian sovereign stated that he believes himself to be "the only person with the power, strength and authority to institute a democratic regime" in Iran. "Anyone but me would be completely overtaken by events. It would be total anarchy," he added.

On television, Reza Pahlavi exposed the "coordinated action" unleashed "against the regime.... against what our reign has represented; an independent Iran which does not take orders from foreign countries, a country which is advancing very rapidly today and whose industrialization is to become a force and element of stability in the region."

Questioned about the Moslem Marxists, the shah replied: "It is they who give themselves this name. We also ask: How can you be marxist and religious at the same time and believe in God...."

What is the opposition, he was asked. And the shah replied: "Today it is destruction. To destroy, like your terrorists in Europe, I wonder if they know what they would use to replace the existing order."

The Iranian sovereign then touched on economic problems, the role of the state, which owns all major industries and natural resources like the forests, and the concern to provide work for a population which will reach 60 or 65 million within 20 years. He noted: "Education is free right up to graduation from university....and we subsidize not only education but also five products: Meat, sugar, bread, rice and tea."

With respect to a question about the representation of the Iranian people, the shah recalled that "communism is illegal (in Iran); it is outside the law."

As for Amnesty International's figure of 30,000 political prisoners, the sovereign reduced this figure to 3,000-3,200.

The shah stressed that 25 years ago approximately 80 percent of the people were illiterate. "Today over 50 percent are literate and in 10 years, with a population of 50 million, we will have no illiterates."

Finally, with respect to a possible revaluation of the price of oil, the shah recalled that the issue will be discussed in December at the OPEC conference. "The index of the dollar's purchasing power," he said, "which was 12.60 a few years ago, has now dropped to 7.60. Obviously it will be impossible to make up the difference."

With respect to Camp David, the shah confirmed that "Iran has always backed Security Council Resolution 242."

KUWAITI OIL MINISTER ARRIVES 24 AUGUST

LD242122Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2000 GMT 24 Aug 78 LD

[Text] Kuwait's Oil Minister Mr 'Ali al-Khalifah as-Sabah arrived in Tehran this evening and was welcomed at Mehrabad Airport by Mohammad Yeganeh, Iran's minister of economic affairs and finance, and Iran's OPEC representative.

According to our correspondent, the Kuwaiti oil minister will meet and confer with our country's officials on oil matters during his 1-day visit.

Leaves 25 August

LD251854Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1600 GMT 25 Aug 78 LD

[Text] Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah as-Sabah, the Kuwaiti oil minister, who arrived in Tehran yesterday, left our country today. During his stay in Tehran he met with Prime Minister Amuzegar and the minister of economic affairs and finance, Mohammad Yeganeh, and discussed issues of mutual interest.

AFGHANISTAN

TARAKI CHAIRS PDP POLITICAL BUREAU MEETING 26 AUGUST

LD262004Y Kabul in Pushtu to Europe 1730 GMT 26 Aug 78 LD

[Text] The People's Democratic Party [PDP] Central Committee Political Bureau held a meeting from 0930 to noon today at the People's House under the chairmanship of Comrade Nur Mohammad Taraki, president of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister. At the outset, Comrade Nur Mohammad Taraki, secretary general of the PDP Central Committee, presented a report on domestic (?and foreign) affairs which was endorsed by the Political Bureau.

Similarly, the Political Bureau discussed matters pertaining to party organizations and the role of workers, farmers, men and women and youth in the popular organizations. The Political Bureau also undertook a comprehensive discussion of agricultural cooperatives, including the survey carried out on aid to farmers, and adopted (?necessary decisions) in this respect.

12 August Meeting

LDT261818Y Kabul Domestic Service in Pushtu 1530 GMT 12 Aug 78 LD

[Text] The Political Bureau of the People's Democratic Party [PDP] of Afghanistan met today from 0930 until noon at the People's House under the chairmanship of Comrade Nur Mohammad Taraki, president of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister. The Political Bureau discussed a number of topics at the meeting. At the outset, Comrade Nur Mohammad Taraki, president of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, presented a brief report to the meeting on the strengthening of security in the country. Later, the meeting heard a report on the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan Government and party high-ranking delegation's visit to Cuba.

In addition, the PDP Political Bureau discussed increasing the productivity of industrial plants and issues pertaining to land reform. The Political Bureau issued necessary instructions to the responsible authorities involved.

In pursuance of the decision adopted at a previous meeting of the Political Bureau on expanding the membership of the Central Committee, at the end of today's meeting the Political Bureau unanimously approved the candidates for principal and alternate membership in the Central Committee, and it was decided that the result of this decision should be proposed to the forthcoming meeting of the Central Committee.

DPRK DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER BRINGS MESSAGE TO AMIN

LD262024Y Kabul in Pushtu to Europe 1730 GMT 26 Aug 78 LD

[Text] The Information Department of the Foreign Ministry has reported that Comrade Hafizollah Amin, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, received His Excellency [name indistinct], DPRK deputy foreign minister, at 1800 today at the Foreign Ministry. At the meeting the DPRK official presented a message from His Excellency Ho Tam, DPRK vice premier and foreign minister, to Comrade Hafizollah Amin.

The DPRK deputy foreign minister arrived in Kabul at 1230 today at the head of a delegation. At Kabul International Airport, Shah Mohammad Dost, deputy foreign minister for political affairs; the director of the Second Political Department; the deputy director of protocol; and the DPRK ambassador in Kabul welcomed the DPRK delegation.

Departs for Home

LD2719447 Kabul in Dari to Europe 1730 GMT 27 Aug 78 LD

[Text] The Information Department of the Foreign Ministry has reported that His Excellency [name indistinct], DPRK deputy foreign minister, and his accompanying delegation left Kabul for the DPRK at 1000 today. Shah Mohammad Dost, deputy foreign minister for political affairs; the director of the First Political Department; the deputy director of protocol; and the DPRK ambassador in Kabul and his embassy staff saw him off at Kabul International Airport.

BANGLADESH

PARTIES FORM 'PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC FRONT'

BK2516447 Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 20 Aug 78 pp 1, 16 BK

[Text] Three political parties--Jatiya Gonomukti Union (Jagmui), Bangladesher Samyabadi Dal (Marxist-Leninist), and Bangladesh National Awami Party (Nasser Bhasani) have formed a front under the name of "People's Democratic Front" (PDF).

Announcing the formation of the front at a press conference at the national press club on Saturday [19 August], Mr. Sirajul Hussain Khan, general secretary of the Jagmui, said that the PDF has been formed to "unite all patriotic democratic forces to launch a democratic movement in the country". The first national convention of the front will be held in Dacca on the first week of October and the front will hold its first public meeting at Baitul Mukarram on August 25, he informed.

Reading out a joint statement of Haji Mohammad Danesh, president of Jagmui; Mr Mohammad Toaha and Mr. Alauddin Ahmed, chairman and secretary respectively of Bangladesh Samyabadi Dal (M-L); and Mr. Abu Nasser Khan Bhashani and Mr. Abdus Sobhan, convener and joint convener of NAP (Nasser); at the press conference, Mr. Sirajul Hussain Khan demanded withdrawal of martial law, restoration of full democratic rights of the people and withdrawal of all restriction on open politics.

Mr. Mohammad Toaha, Mr. Abu Nasser Khan Bhasani, and Haji Mohammad Danesh and other prominent leaders of the three component political parties of the PDF were present at the press conference.

The PDF criticised the government for signing an agreement allowing the U.S. Peace Corps in Bangladesh. They demanded annulment of the U.S.-Bangladesh peace corps agreement, the India-Bangladesh friendship treaty and the Berubari agreement.

The PDF demanded the release of all patriotic political prisoners and withdrawal of all cases and warrant of arrest on such political leaders and workers. When asked, the PDF leaders however avoided to name any political leaders and workers whose release they demand. When pressed further whether they demand the release of Khondokar Mushtaque Ahmed, Mr. Sirajul Alam Khan, Major (Rtd.) M.A. Jalil, Mr. A.S.M. Abdur Rab and others, the PDF leaders parried the question.

The PDF leaders demanded repeal of the constitution enacted during Sheikh Mujib's rule and formation of a national government with the political forces struggling against imperialism, expansionism and hegemonism. They said that the PDF would however participate in the next parliamentary election. The next election they believe will be a part of the democratic movement of the PDF. Referring to the call of unity by President Ziaur Rahman they ruled out any possibility of supporting the president and joining his government or party.

The PDF leaders criticised the government for increasing the railway fare and the price of fertilizer and demanded withdrawal of the increased price on fertisizer and railway fare.

In its 12-point political programme, the PDF demanded total freedom of press, trade unions and the right for strike. The front demanded trial of those responsible for political murder, corruption and looting during the Awami-Baksal regime. The front also demanded the eradication of corrupt officials from the administration.

Talking about the organisational set up, the PDF leaders said that the Central Committee of the front will be formed with three representatives each from the component parties of the front. The Central Council of the front will consist of the members of the Central Committee and two representatives each from the front organisations of the three component parties of the front and representatives from likeminded organisations. The PDF leaders asked their respective leaders to form committees of the front in district and other lower levels.

The PDF leaders said that they had discussions with Mr. Rashed Khan Menon and they hope that Bangladesh Gonotantrik Andolan will join the front. The PDF had differed with JSD on scientific socialism, they said.

INDIA

TWO ARRESTED FOR KIDNAPING DEFENSE MINISTER'S SON

BK2516344Y Hong Kong AFP in English 1630 GMT 25 Aug 78 BK

[Text] New Delhi, Aug. 25 (AFP)--Two persons have been arrested in Delhi on the charge of abduction of Defence Minister Jagjivan Ram's son, Suresh Kumar.

Mr. Kumar is a member of the legislative assembly of Bihar, home state of the defence minister. The arrests were made today.

According to a complaint lodged by Mr. Kumar with the Delhi police, he was abducted by a group of 10 or 11 persons on the night of Sunday last [20 August] driving in an old Delhi area along with a girl friend of his in the car. Both he and the girl were taken to a village in the neighbouring state of Uttar Pradesh and released the next morning.

Mr. Kumar also alleged that he was forced to sign some documents before being released.

The two arrested were said to be officials of the All-India Farmers' Council of which former Interior Minister Charan Singh is the patron.

AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH USSR TO FURTHER DEVELOP TRADE

BK261608Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 26 Aug 78 BK

[Text] India and the Soviet Union have signed an agreement to further develop their trade during the next 5 years. The agreement was signed in New Delhi today by the commerce minister, Mr Mohan Dharia, and the visiting Soviet deputy foreign trade minister, Mr I.T. Grishin.

Mr Grishin is in New Delhi in connection with the ESCAP conference.

DELEGATION RETURNS FROM CHINA; PRC TRADE OFFICIAL VISITS

BK261614Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 26 Aug 78 BK

[Text] China is interested in having a long-term agreement for import of iron ore from India and is also keen on developing direct commercial contacts. An Indian businessmen's delegation, which has come back after a visit to China, was also told that China may negotiate for import of wheat and sugar. The delegation impressed on the Chinese side that the public and private enterprises in India are in a position to offer appropriate technology. In the past year or so China had chartered Indian ships from the London market, and the first contract for Indian steel tubes was through a third country.

The Chinese vice minister for foreign trade, Mr Liu Hsi-wen, today met the commerce minister, Mr Mohan Dharia, in New Delhia. Both of them expressed the desire for increasing trade between the two countries.

AFP: CULTURAL DELEGATION POSTPONES PRC VISIT INDEFINITELY

BK271837Y Hong Kong AFP in English 1740 GMT 27 Aug 78 OW

[Text] New Delhi, Aug 27 (AFP)--A proposed visit by an Indian cultural delegation to China has been postponed indefinitely, the Delhi television reported tonight, quoting a government spokesman. No reason was given. The delegation was to have left on Wednesday.

PAKISTAN

PAPERS COMMENT ON REPROCESSING PLANT DECISION

BK261512Y Hong Kong AFP in English 1458 GMT 26 Aug 78 BK

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 26 (AFP)--Pakistan's resolve to acquire nuclear fuel reprocessing technology remains unshaken, the semi-official English daily THE PAKISTAN TIMES said today.

In an editorial entitled "A National Commitment" the newspaper recalled Pakistani military leader Gen Ziaul Haq's statement that alternative arrangements would be made if talks with France were unproductive. It said French President Giscard d'Estaing's recent letter to Gen Ziaul Haq meant that Paris had gone back on its commitment to supply Pakistan with a nuclear reprocessing plant.

Talk of modifications in the contract was only "a coverup to soften the impact of the volte face, for Pakistan had made it clear that it stands by agreement as originally signed," the newspaper said. The episode had serious implications for the Third World in its efforts to acquire modern technology, THE PAKISTAN TIMES said, adding that the denial of reprocessing technology to Pakistan "amounts to perpetuation of imperialism in a new form."

It emphasized "the French decision calls for a concerted effort to seek alternative sources of supply."

The leading pro-government newspaper NAWAI WAQAT criticized American pressure which it said was behind the virtual cancellation of the deal by France. "The image France acquired on the international scene by shaking off the yoke of American hegemony during the time of De Gaulle will be adversely affected," NAWAI WAQAT said in an editorial.

The daily said other countries will always keep in mind that France is prone to dishonouring its pledges and contracts. NAWAI WAQAT said the main reason for the discriminatory attitude of the United States was that Americans cannot see a Moslem country and friends of the Arabs acquiring atomic know how.

OPPOSITION LEADER ON NUCLEAR DECISION, ELECTIONS

BK270255Y Hong Kong AFP in English 0151 GMT 27 Aug 78 BK

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 26 (AFP)--A prominent politician and president of the Tehrik-I-Istiqlal Party, Air Marshal (Rtd) Usghar Khan, told newsmen here today that Pakistan should look for alternate sources to acquire nuclear reprocessing technology if France finally backs out of the deal signed in 1976.

Khan, who has recently returned from a 2-week tour of China, said he, however, did not discuss the matter with China but added that China has got the technology.

He said that the solution to the "manifold problems" faced by Pakistan today lay in holding early elections in the country.

Asghar Khan, who had announced earlier that his party would fill the gap of opposition in the country, said that the atmosphere was quite conducive and polls can be held within 45 days and added that his party was ready to participate on the basis of previous arrangements. He said that condemned Prime Minister Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto's trial could not justify delay in the electoral process. He said Martial Law Administrator General Ziaul Haq had told him earlier that a decision on Bhutto's case was expected in July last "but now we are approaching September." Bhutto's appeal against a Lahore high court order of death sentence is pending judgement before the Supreme Court of Pakistan.

KARACHI RADIO QUOTES PNA CHIEF ON ELECTION SCHEDULE

BK261716Y Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 26 Aug 78 BK

[Text] The PNA [Pakistan National Alliance] president, Maulana Mufti Mahmud, has said the alliance, in agreement with the chief martial law administrator, has worked out a schedule for holding elections in the country any time between April and October next year.

According to PPI [Pakistan Press International], he said in an interview that preparation of electoral rolls, including those of minorities for separate electorates, and delimitation of constituencies will be over by March. Once this has been done, an announcement about the date for holding elections will be made.

He said the PNA has joined the government for Islamizing Pakistani society.

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